

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State

by Angie Wallace, RDH; Laura Braswell, DDS; Suzanne Newkirk, RDH; John Sulewski, MA

### Legend, Abbreviations, and Definitions

**SPA** – State Practice Act. **BOD** – Board of Directors or Board of Examiners

**YES** – A regulation does exist pertaining to laser use by dental hygienists

**NO** – A regulation does exist indicating that lasers CANNOT be used by dental hygienists

**Silent** – There is no mention in the existing state regulation on dental laser use by dental hygienists

**LAPT** – Laser-Assisted Periodontal Therapy, used to the depths of the periodontal pocket after scaling and root planning procedure to decontaminate

**LBR** – Laser Bacterial Reduction, uses lower settings than LAPT, used only ½ to 1 mm into the periodontal pocket to reduce inflammation and as a preventative procedure

Jurisdiction	Laser Use Allowed?	Laser Education Required?	Supervision Required?	Laser Bacterial Reduction (LBR)?	Laser-Assisted Periodontal Therapy (LAPT)?	Laser Curettage?	Other Laser Procedures?	Remarks
Alabama	Yes, per SPA		Yes, direct	No	No	No	Preliminary diagnostic purposes only	Requires the dentist's final examination and diagnosis
Alaska	SPA silent							Laser treatment not prohibited in hygiene scope of practice  No operative or surgical procedures on hard or soft tissues
Arizona	Yes, per SPA	Yes, must complete a laser course of study with didactic instruction, written exam, and hands-on clinical instruction	Yes, general	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA		Laser use may be considered an "emerging scientific technology"  The technology must be scientifically based and supported by studies in peer-reviewed dental journals  Supervising dentist must have training on using the technology equal to or greater than the training required for the hygienist
Arkansas	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, general	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA		Hygienist and supervising dentist must submit to Board proof of successful completion of an approved education course on the use of the type of laser to be used prior to its usage for any patient treatment



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Jurisdiction	Laser Use Allowed?	Laser Education Required?	Supervision Required?	Laser Bacterial Reduction (LBR)?	Laser-Assisted Periodontal Therapy (LAPT)?	Laser Curettage?	Other Laser Procedures?	Remarks
California	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA		A registered dental hygienist may use any material or device approved for use in the performance of a service or procedure within his or her scope of practice under the appropriate level of supervision, if he or she has the appropriate education and training
Colorado	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, indirect or direct	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA		Laser use by a dental hygienist must be within scope of practice and can only be performed on soft tissue under the indirect or direct supervision of a dentist  Hygienist and supervising dentist must complete laser training course (minimum 8 hours) and live, interactive, hands-on training that addresses operation of the specific laser(s) used in the practice
Connecticut	SPA silent							
Delaware	SPA silent							
Washington DC	SPA silent							
Florida	Yes, per SPA, as assessment device		Yes, per SPA				Assessment device	Functions of the assessment devices are not specified in SPA
Georgia	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, direct	Yes, per SPA		Yes, per SPA		A dental hygienist, under direct supervision of a Georgia licensed dentist, may use a dental diode laser limited to the use of bacterial reduction/disinfection of the gingival sulcus at settings that preclude hard and soft tissue removal except for incidental gingival curettage  Dental hygienist must successfully complete interactive didactic and clinical training which includes laser safety, infection control, patient management and the operation of the specific laser(s) used in the dental practice. Training must consist of not less than 8 hours of instruction



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Guam	SPA silent							
Hawaii	SPA silent							
Idaho	SPA silent							
Illinois	No, per SPA							
Indiana	Yes, per SPA		Yes, direct or prescriptive	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA			A dental hygienist may use a laser, except to cut, ablate, or cauterize hard or soft tissue
Iowa	Yes, per SPA			SPA silent	SPA silent			Per BOD position statement, laser use must be within the hygiene scope of practice  Hygienist cannot use a laser to cut tissue  Must attend recognized laser course
Kansas	SPA silent							
Kentucky	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, direct	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA		A dental hygienist applying to laser debridement must submit documentation proving successful completion of a Board-approved course in performing laser debridement
Louisiana	No, per SPA							
Maine	SPA silent							
Maryland	SPA silent							
Massachusetts	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, direct	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA		Diagnostic	A dental hygienist may use diagnostic and periodontic non-cutting lasers  Delegation to dental auxiliaries may only occur when both the supervising dentist and registered dental hygienist obtain proper training on the use of dental laser devices, and use the devices within their licensed scope of practice, training and experience  Cites Academy of Laser Dentistry and Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education



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Michigan	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per Position Statement	Yes, direct			Yes, per SPA		Delegated individual is required to have the appropriate education, training or experience to properly use lasers  Dentist must develop written procedures and protocols to guide the delegated individual's laser use
Minnesota	SPA silent							
Mississippi	No, per BOD determination except for KaVo DIAGNOdent		Yes, direct	No, per BOD determination	No, per BOD determination	No, per BOD determination	Use of KaVo DIAGNOdent	A dental hygienist may use the KaVo DIAGNOdent under direct supervision  A dental hygienist is not allowed to use a laser to perform gingival curettage, perform sulcular debridement of periodontal pockets, remove facial hair, or use soft tissue lasers to assist in the treatment of periodontal diseases and other soft tissue disorders
Missouri	SPA silent							
Montana	SPA silent							
Nebraska	SPA silent							
Nevada	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, supervision by a dentist	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Bleaching teeth and dental diagnostic purposes	Each licensee who uses or wishes to use laser radiation in his or her practice of dentistry or dental hygiene must include with the application of renewal of his or her license a statement certifying that each laser used has been cleared by U.S. FDA for use in dentistry  Dental hygienists and supervising dentist must complete a course in laser proficiency that is at least 6 hours in length and that is based on the Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education  Cites and adopts Curriculum Guidelines for Dental Laser Education adopted by the Academy of Laser Dentistry
New Hampshire	SPA silent							



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New Jersey	No, per SPA							A dental hygienist cannot use lasers, including a laser capable of altering, cutting, curing or damaging hard or soft tissue
New Mexico	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, indirect	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA		A dental hygienist may use laser devices approved by the U.S. FDA under the indirect supervision of a New Mexico licensed dentist  Minimum 6 hours training with hands-on clinical simulation, certificate to be posted in office
New York	SPA silent							
North Carolina	No, per SPA, except for laser fluorescence detectors		Yes, under supervision and control of a dentists	No, per SPA	No, per SPA	No, per SPA	Laser fluorescence detectors only	A dental hygienist may use laser fluorescence detectors in preparation for the dentist's examination and diagnosis of cavities
North Dakota	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, general	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA		Any services provided by a licensee, regardless of the device used, must be within the scope of practice for each licensee  Whenever a new treatment modality is brought forward, it is the Board's policy that the dentist must have equal or greater proficiency and training in the technology  Licensees utilizing the new technology must maintain documentation of the satisfactory completion of the formal continuing education or training
Northern Mariana Islands	Yes, per SPA		Yes, supervision of a dentist			Yes, per SPA		
Ohio	Yes, per SPA		Yes, supervision of a dentist				Caries diagnostic lasers only	A dental hygienist may perform caries diagnostic procedures under the supervision of a licensed dentist



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Oklahoma	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, direct/indirect	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA			<p>A dental hygienist may apply for an Advanced Procedure permit for the therapeutic use of lasers under the direct/indirect supervision of a dentist. Laser use is limited to soft tissue decontamination, sulcular bacterial reduction, tissue disinfection</p> <p>No intentional cutting of hard or soft tissue</p> <p>Hygienist must complete an 8-hour, live, in-person, hands-on laser course, complete an application, and use the laser within the scope of practice</p>
Oregon	SPA silent							
Pennsylvania	SPA silent							
Puerto Rico	SPA silent							
Rhode Island	SPA silent							
South Carolina	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, direct	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA		No laser bleaching of teeth, per Board Policy	<p>Dental hygienist laser use is limited to pocket disinfection at settings that preclude hard and soft tissue removal, except for incidental gingival curettage</p> <p>Hygienist and supervising dentist must complete laser training course (minimum 12 hours) and interactive training that addresses operation of the specific laser(s) used in the practice</p>
South Dakota	SPA silent							
Tennessee	Yes, per SPA and Board Policy Statement	Yes, per Board Policy Statement	Yes, direct and/or indirect	Yes, per Board Policy Statement	Yes, per Board Policy Statement	Yes, per SPA		<p>A dental hygienist may use lasers for examination and/or periodontal treatment (including debridement and bacterial reduction)</p> <p>A dental hygienist must successfully complete a laser course which should include didactic and hands-on training</p>



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Texas	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, direct	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA			Hygienist may use lasers under the direct supervision of a dentist. No irreversible procedures. No intentional cutting of soft or hard tissue  Hygienist and supervising dentist must complete a Board-recognized laser training course (minimum 12 hours; 3 hours must include clinical simulation of procedures to be performed by the hygienist using the laser) and interactive training that addresses operation of the specific laser(s) used in the practice
Utah	Yes, per SPA		Yes, general	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA		Bleaching, per SPA	Allows hygienists to use lasers for bleaching and periodontal debridement
Vermont	SPA silent							Proposed use of periodontal lasers for pocket debridement
Virgin Islands	SPA silent							
Virginia	Yes, per SPA		Yes, indirect	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA		Limited to nonsurgical lasers
Washington	SPA silent							
West Virginia	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, direct	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA		Photo-biomodulation, treatment of herpetic lesions and aphthous ulcers, per SPA  Curing resin restorations and diagnostic aid, per BOD Position Statement	Laser use permitted under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist  Hygienist must complete a Board-approved laser training course (minimum 5.5 hours didactic), written examination, and 2.5 hours of hands-on training to assess clinical competency
Wisconsin	SPA silent							



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Wyoming	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA	Yes, direct	Yes, per SPA	Yes, per SPA		Treatment of herpetic lesions and aphthous ulcers, per SPA	Hygienist must complete a Board-approved laser training program (minimum 12 hours) and live, interactive, hands-on training that addresses operation of the specific laser(s) used in the practice  Cites the Academy of Laser Dentistry



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## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

This appendix is intended to accompany the Academy of Laser Dentistry's summary table "Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State" from December 2024. It contains detailed information on dental hygienist use of lasers for each U.S. state, commonwealth, and territory, arranged alphabetically. Included for each jurisdiction are the following:

- Contact information, including (where applicable), agency name, physical address, mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address, URL.
- Scope of practice, supervision, and summary statements as a quick resource.
- URLs and excerpts from statutes, regulations, rules, administrative codes, practice acts, frequently asked questions, advisory opinions, board meeting minutes, position statements, policies, proposed administrative rules, and other documents, along with effective dates (when specified). Selected passages related to lasers are highlighted for ease of reference.

All URLs were accessed December 2024 unless specified otherwise.

### Position Statements on Laser Use

#### Academy of Laser Dentistry (ALD)

"The Academy of Laser Dentistry (ALD) supports the use of lasers in dentistry when used by a properly trained and licensed dental professional where the procedure is safe, effective, consistent with his/her education and experience, and within the scope of his/her license." The full Statement on the Use of Lasers by Licensed Dental Professionals (January 27, 2003, updated December 6, 2024), is published in Journal of Laser Dentistry 2012;20(2):74, and is available at [https://web.archive.org/web/20170915143000/http://www.laserdentistry.org/uploads/files/members/jld/JLD\\_20\\_2/JLD\\_20\\_2\\_2.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20170915143000/http://www.laserdentistry.org/uploads/files/members/jld/JLD_20_2/JLD_20_2_2.pdf).

#### American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA)

"The American Dental Hygienists' Association supports dental hygienists' use of lasers within the dental hygiene scope of practice." (2017). Refer to American Dental Hygienists' Association ADHA Policy Manual, Adopted June 2024, Revised October 2024, p. 20, available at [https://www.adha.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/ADHA-Policy-Manual\\_Oct2024.pdf](https://www.adha.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/ADHA-Policy-Manual_Oct2024.pdf)

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### Alabama

#### **Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama**

2229 Rocky Ridge Road

Birmingham, AL 35216

(205) 985-7267

Fax (205) 823-9006

URL: [Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama \(dentalboard.org\)](http://dentalboard.org)

Scope of Practice: **270-X-3-.10(2)(x)**, [Chapter 270-X-3 Dental Hygienists \(state.al.us\)](http://state.al.us)

Supervision: Direct

Summary: Dental hygienists may use laser and/or narrow band (light) imaging technology for preliminary diagnostic purposes only with the dentist's final examination and diagnosis.

[Chapter 270-X-3 Dental Hygienists \(state.al.us\)](http://state.al.us)

**Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama**

**Administrative Code**

**Chapter 270-X-3**

**Dental Hygienists**

**Revised 6/14/24**

#### **270-X-3-.10 Duties Of Allied Dental Personnel.**

Allied dental personnel are dental hygienists, dental assistants and dental laboratory technicians. Subject to the prohibition that no intra-oral procedure can be performed unless under the direct supervision of a duly licensed dentist as defined by Board rule, the following allied dental personnel may perform the following:

(2) Dental Assistants and Dental Hygienists:

(x) Use laser and/or narrow band (light) imaging technology for preliminary diagnostic purposes only with the dentist's final examination and diagnosis.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Alaska

#### Board of Dental Examiners of Alaska

Mailing Address:

PO Box 110806

Juneau, AK 99811-0806

Physical Address:

333 Willoughby Ave, 9th Floor

State Office Building

Juneau, AK 99801-1770

(907) 465-2550

Fax (907) 465-2974

E-mail: [BoardofDentalExaminers@Alaska.Gov](mailto:BoardofDentalExaminers@Alaska.Gov)

URL:

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofDentalExaminers.aspx>

Scope of Practice: **Sec. 08.32.110(a)(1)(F)**,

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/portals/5/pub/DentalStatutes.pdf>

Supervision: General

Summary: A person licensed to practice the profession of dental hygiene in the state may, under the general supervision of a licensed dentist, perform other dental operations and services delegated by a licensed dentist if the dental operations and services are not prohibited by (c) of this section. **Subsection (c) does not prohibit lasers.**

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/portals/5/pub/DentalStatutes.pdf>

#### **Statutes and Regulations Dentists and Dental Hygienists April 2024**

#### **Chapter 32. Dental Hygienists and Assistants Article 2. Regulation of Dental Hygienists**

**Sec. 08.32.110. Scope of practice of dental hygienists.** (a) The role of the dental hygienist is to assist members of the dental profession in providing oral health care to the public. A person licensed to practice the profession of dental hygiene in the state may,

(1) under the general supervision of a licensed dentist,

(A) perform preliminary charting and triage to formulate a dental hygiene assessment and dental hygiene treatment plan;

(B) remove calcareous deposits, accretions, and stains from the exposed surfaces of the teeth beginning at the epithelial attachment by scaling and polishing techniques;

(C) remove marginal overhangs;

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

- (D) use local periodontal therapeutic agents;
  - (E) perform nonsurgical periodontal therapy;
  - (F) perform other dental operations and services delegated by a licensed dentist if the dental operations and services are not prohibited by (c) of this section;
  - (G) if certified by the board, administer local anesthetic agents; and
  - (2) if certified by the board and under the direct or indirect supervision of a licensed dentist, administer and monitor nitrous oxide-oxygen conscious sedation.
- (b) The board shall specify by regulation those additional functions that may be performed by a licensed dental hygienist only upon successful completion of a formal course of instruction approved by the board. The board shall adopt regulations specifying the education requirements, evaluation procedures, and degree of supervision required for each function.
- (c) This section does not authorize delegation of
- (1) dental diagnosis, comprehensive treatment planning, and writing
    - (A) prescriptions for drugs;
    - (B) authorizations for restorative, prosthetic, or orthodontic appliances;
  - (2) operative or surgical procedures on hard or soft tissues; or
  - (3) other procedures that require the professional competence and skill of a dentist.

**ARTICLE 7.  
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES.**

**12 AAC 28.710. USE OF LASER DEVICES.** Repealed 11/15/2005.

# Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

## Arizona

### Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners

1740 W Adams, Suite 2470

Phoenix, AZ 85007

(602) 242-1492

Fax (602) 242-1445

E-mail: [info@dentalboard.az.gov](mailto:info@dentalboard.az.gov)

URL: <https://dentalboard.az.gov>

Scope of Practice: **R4-11-601(D)**, [https://apps.azsos.gov/public\\_services/Title\\_04/4-11.pdf](https://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_04/4-11.pdf)

Supervision: General

Summary: To qualify to use emerging scientific technology as authorized by A.R.S. § 32-1281(D)(2), a dental hygienist shall successfully complete a course of study that meets the following criteria:

1. Is a course offered by a recognized dental school as defined in A.R.S. § 32-1201(17), a recognized dental hygiene school as defined in A.R.S. § 32-1201(16), or sponsored by a national or state dental or dental hygiene association or government agency;
2. Includes didactic instruction with a written examination;
3. Includes hands-on clinical instruction; and
4. Is technology that is scientifically based and supported by studies published in peer reviewed dental journals.

[https://apps.azsos.gov/public\\_services/Title\\_04/4-11.pdf](https://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_04/4-11.pdf)

### Arizona Administrative Code

#### Title 4. Professions and Occupations

#### Chapter 11. State Board of Dental Examiners

December 31, 2023

#### Article 1. Definitions

##### R4-11-101. Definitions

The following definitions, and definitions in A.R.S. § 32-1201, apply to this Chapter:

“**Emerging scientific technology**” means any technology used in the treatment of oral disease that is not currently generally accepted or taught in a recognized dental, dental therapy, or dental hygiene school and use of the technology poses material risks.

#### Article 6. Dental Hygienists

##### R4-11-601. Duties and Qualifications

A. A dental hygienist may apply preventative and therapeutic agents under the general supervision of a licensed dentist.

B. A dental hygienist may perform a procedure not specifically authorized by A.R.S. § 32-1281 when all of the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The procedure is recommended or prescribed by the supervising dentist;
2. The hygienist has received instruction, training, or education to perform the procedure in a safe manner; and
3. The procedure is performed under the general supervision of a licensed dentist.

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

C. A dental hygienist shall not perform an irreversible procedure.

D. To qualify to use emerging scientific technology as authorized by A.R.S. § 32-1281(C)(2), a dental hygienist shall successfully complete a course of study that meets the following criteria:

1. Is a course offered by a recognized dental school as defined in A.R.S. § 32-1201, a recognized dental hygiene school as defined in A.R.S. § 32-1201, or sponsored by a national or state dental or dental hygiene association or government agency;
2. Includes didactic instruction with a written examination;
3. Includes hands-on clinical instruction; and
4. Is technology that is scientifically based and supported by studies published in peer reviewed dental journals.

<https://www.azleg.gov/viewdocument/?docName=https://www.azleg.gov/ars/32/01281.htm>

**Arizona Revised Statutes  
Title 32 Professions and Occupations  
Chapter 11 Dentistry  
Article 4 Licensing and Regulation of Dental Hygienists  
32-1281. Practicing as a dental hygienist; supervision requirements; definitions**

C. The board by rule shall prescribe the circumstances under which a licensed dental hygienist may:

1. Apply preventive and therapeutic agents to the hard and soft tissues.
2. Use emerging scientific technology and prescribe the necessary training, experience and supervision to operate newly developed scientific technology. A dentist who supervises a dental hygienist whose duties include the use of emerging scientific technology must have training on using the emerging technology that is equal to or greater than the training the dental hygienist is required to obtain.
3. Perform other procedures not specifically authorized by this section.

D. Except as provided in subsections E, F and I of this section, a dental hygienist shall practice under the general supervision of a dentist who is licensed pursuant to this chapter.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Arkansas

#### Dental Examiners, Arkansas State Board

101 East Capitol Ave.

Suite 111

Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 682-2085

E-mail: [asbde@arkansas.gov](mailto:asbde@arkansas.gov)

URL: <https://healthy.arkansas.gov/boards-commissions/boards/dental-examiners-arkansas-state-board/>

Scope of Practice: **Article XI(A)(2)(b)**, [https://healthy.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/Dental\\_Practice\\_Act.pdf](https://healthy.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/Dental_Practice_Act.pdf)

Supervision: General

Summary: A licensed dental hygienist may be delegated: Oral prophylaxis, scaling, root planing and curettage. If a laser instrument is used, the dental hygienist and their supervising dentist must submit to the Board proof of successful completion of an approved educational course on the use of that type of laser prior to its usage for any patient treatment.

[https://healthy.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/Dental\\_Practice\\_Act.pdf](https://healthy.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/Dental_Practice_Act.pdf)

#### Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners

#### Dental Practice Act

January 2023

#### Rules & Regulations

#### Article XI: Dental Hygienists Functions

Definitions pertaining to Dental Hygiene Functions:

INDIRECT SUPERVISION: The dentist authorizes the procedures and remains in the treatment facility while the procedures are being performed.

OPERATIVE SUPERVISION: The dentist authorizes the procedures, remains in the operatory while the procedures are being performed, and evaluates the results prior to leaving the operatory.

GENERAL SUPERVISION: The dentist authorizes the procedures but is not required to be present in the treatment facility while the procedures are being performed by the dental hygienist.

#### A. EXCLUSIVE FUNCTIONS TO BE PERFORMED BY A DENTAL HYGIENIST WHEN DELEGATED BY A DENTIST

1. Effective and safe delivery of certain services to the public is dependent upon making judgments and utilizing skills that require synthesis and application of knowledge acquired in accredited dental hygiene education programs and cannot be delegated to any dental staff member other than a licensed, registered dental hygienist.

2. The following functions may only be delegated to a licensed dental hygienist:

a. Oral examination. Elements of these examinations include charting of carious lesions and other abnormalities, periodontal charting and assessment of periodontal conditions, treatment planning for dental hygiene services and oral cancer screening. The

## **Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

dental hygienist may dictate the examination findings to a dental assistant who may then record the data on the patient's dental record.

b. Oral prophylaxis, scaling, root planning and curettage. If a laser instrument is used, the dental hygienist and their supervising dentist must submit to the Board proof of successful completion of an approved educational course on the use of that type of laser prior to its usage for any patient treatment.



## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### California

#### Dental Board of California

2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1550

Sacramento, CA 95815

(877) 729-7789 (Toll Free)

(916) 263-2300 (Direct)

Fax (916) 263-2140

E-mail: [DentalBoard@dca.ca.gov](mailto:DentalBoard@dca.ca.gov)

URL: <https://www.dbc.ca.gov>

Scope of Practice: §1914,

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=BPC&sectionNum=1914](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=BPC&sectionNum=1914).

Supervision: General or direct depending on service or procedure

Summary: A registered dental hygienist may use any material or device approved for use in the performance of a service or procedure within his or her scope of practice under the appropriate level of supervision, if he or she has the appropriate education and training required to use the material or device.

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=BPC&sectionNum=1914](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=BPC&sectionNum=1914).

#### Business and Professions Code - BPC

**DIVISION 2. HEALING ARTS [500 - 4999.129]** (*Division 2 enacted by Stats. 1937, Ch. 399.*)

**CHAPTER 4. Dentistry [1600 - 1976]** (*Chapter 4 added by Stats. 1937, Ch. 415.*)

**ARTICLE 9. Dental Hygienists [1900 - 1966.6]** (*Article 9 added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47.*)

**1902.** For purposes of this article, the following definitions apply:

(a) “Dental hygiene board” means the Dental Hygiene Board of California.

(b) “Dental board” means the Dental Board of California.

(c) “Direct supervision” means the supervision of dental procedures based on instructions given by a licensed dentist who is required to be physically present in the treatment facility during the performance of those procedures.

(d) “General supervision” means the supervision of dental procedures based on instructions given by a licensed dentist who is not required to be physically present in the treatment facility during the performance of those procedures.

(e) “Oral prophylaxis” means preventive and therapeutic dental procedures that include bacterial debridements with complete removal, supra and subgingivally, of calculus, soft deposits, plaque, and stains, and the smoothing of tooth surfaces. The objective of this treatment is to create an environment in which the patient can maintain healthy hard and soft tissues. (*Amended by Stats. 2019, Ch. 456, Sec. 2. (SB 786) Effective January 1, 2020.*)

**1910.** A registered dental hygienist is authorized to perform the following procedures under general supervision:

## **Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

(a) Preventive and therapeutic interventions, including oral prophylaxis, scaling, and root planing.

(b) Application of topical, therapeutic, and subgingival agents used for the control of caries and periodontal disease.

(c) The taking of impressions for bleaching trays and application and activation of agents with nonlaser, light-curing devices.

(d) The taking of impressions for bleaching trays and placements of in-office, tooth-whitening devices.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

**1914.** A registered dental hygienist may use any material or device approved for use in the performance of a service or procedure within his or her scope of practice under the appropriate level of supervision, if he or she has the appropriate education and training required to use the material or device.

*(Added by Stats. 2008, Ch. 31, Sec. 47. Effective January 1, 2009. Operative July 1, 2009, by Sec. 55 of Ch. 31.)*

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/regulations/california/16-CCR-1107>

### **California Code of Regulations**

#### **Title 16 - Professional and Vocational Regulations**

#### **Division 11 - Dental Hygiene Board of California**

#### **Article 3 - Educational Programs**

#### **§ 1107 - RDH Course in Periodontal Soft Tissue Curettage, Local Anesthesia, and Nitrous Oxide-Oxygen Analgesia (Sln)**

**8-4-2014**

(a) Approval of Course. The Board shall approve only those educational courses of instruction in local anesthetic, nitrous oxide-oxygen analgesia and periodontal soft tissue curettage that continuously meet all course requirements. Continuation of approval will be contingent upon compliance with these requirements.

(9) Specific Curriculum Content.

(C) Periodontal soft tissue curettage curriculum must include at least six (6) hours of instruction, including at least three (3) hours of didactic and preclinical instruction and at least three (3) hours of clinical instruction.

Education may include use of a laser approved for soft tissue curettage. This includes at least three (3) clinical experiences on patients, of which only one may be on another student and one of which will be used to determine clinical competency in the course. The competency evaluation for this procedure must be achieved at a minimum of 75%.

Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 16, § 1107

1. New section filed 8-4-2014; operative 8-4-2014 pursuant to Government Code section 11343.4(b)(3) (Register 2014, No. 32).

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Colorado

#### Colorado Dental Board

1560 Broadway, Suite 1350

Denver, CO 80202

303-894-7800

E-mail: [dora\\_dpo\\_licensing@state.co.us](mailto:dora_dpo_licensing@state.co.us)

URL: <https://dpo.colorado.gov/Dental>

Scope of Practice: **Rule 1.22,**

<https://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/GenerateRulePdf.do?ruleVersionId=11199&fileName=3%20CR%20709-1>

Supervision: Indirect or direct

Summary: Laser use by a dental hygienist can only be performed under the indirect or direct supervision of a dentist and must be within the dental hygiene scope of practice. A licensee who is a laser user must first successfully complete training that covers a minimum of eight hours of laser physics, safety, and appropriate use, to include a hands on component, prior to utilizing the laser. A licensee must also complete live and interactive training that addresses operation of the specific laser(s) utilized in the practice.

<https://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/GenerateRulePdf.do?ruleVersionId=11199&fileName=3%20CR%20709-1>

#### Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies Colorado Dental Board

#### Dentists, Dental Therapists & Dental Hygienists Rules and Regulations

3 CCR 709-1

December 30, 2022

#### 1.22 Use of Lasers

This Rule is promulgated pursuant to sections 12-20-204, 12-220-105(3), 12-220-106(1)(a), and 12-220-106(1)(a)(I), C.R.S.

A. The requirements in this Rule do not apply to use of non-adjustable laser units for purposes of diagnosis and curing.

B. A dentist may use a laser capable of the removal of hard and soft tissue in the treatment of a dental patient.

C. Laser use by a dental therapist or a dental hygienist can only be performed on soft tissue under the indirect or direct supervision of a dentist and must be within the dental therapy or the dental hygiene scope of practice.

D. A licensee who is a laser user or supervises a laser user must first successfully complete training that covers a minimum of eight hours of laser physics, safety, and appropriate use, to include a hands on component, prior to utilizing the laser.

1. Training must be obtained through a course provided or recognized by any of the following organizations (or a successor organization):

a. A Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) approved institution;

b. The American Dental Association (ADA) Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP);

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

c. The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) Program Approval for Continuing Education (PACE); or

d. The American Medical Association (AMA).

2. A licensee utilizing a laser, other than what is described in section (A) of this Rule, must maintain evidence of training as required in section (D)(1) of this Rule. Upon request of the Board, the licensee must submit evidence of such training.

3. A licensee must also complete live and interactive training that addresses operation of the specific laser(s) utilized in the practice.

E. All lasers must be used in accordance with accepted safety guidelines.

F. When utilizing a laser pursuant to this Rule, at a minimum, the following must be documented in the patient's record:

1. Type of laser, including wavelength;
2. Settings used (pulse or continuous wave, power setting);
3. Size of fiber, tip, or aperture of tip; and
4. Procedure performed with details to include hard and/or soft tissue removal.

(Adopted January 22, 2015, Effective March 30, 2015; Amended April 30, 2015, Effective June 30, 2015; Amended April 28, 2016, Effective June 30, 2016; Amended May 3, 2018, Effective July 3, 2018; Amended November 5, 2020; Effective December 30, 2020; Amended November 3, 2022; Effective December 30, 2022

<https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/olls/crs2024-title-12.pdf>

### Colorado Revised Statutes 2024

#### Title 12

#### Professions and Occupations

#### Part I

#### General Provisions

#### Article 220: Dentists, Dental Hygienists & Dental Therapists

January 1, 2023

**12-220-101. Short title.** The short title of this article 220 is the “Dental Practice Act”.

**Source: L. 2020:** Entire article amended with relocations, (HB 20-1056), ch. 64, p. 219, § 1, effective September 14.

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 12-220-101 as it existed prior to 2020.

**12-220-106. Powers and duties of board - rules - limitation on authority.** (1) The board shall exercise, in accordance with this article 220, the following powers and duties:

(a) Make, publish, declare, and periodically review reasonable rules pursuant to section 12-20-204, including rules regarding:

(I) The use of lasers for dental, dental therapy, and dental hygiene purposes within defined scopes of practice, subject to appropriate education and training, and with appropriate supervision, as applicable;

**Source: L. 2020:** Entire article amended with relocations, (HB 20-1056), ch. 64, p. 223, § 1, effective September 14. **L. 2022:** (1)(a)(I) and (1)(f) amended, (SB 22-219), ch. 381, p. 2713, § 8, effective January 1, 2023.

## **Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Editor's note:** This section is similar to former § 12-220-106 as it existed prior to 2020.

**Cross references:** For the legislative declaration in SB 22-219, see section 1 of chapter 381, Session Laws of Colorado 2022.

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Connecticut**

**Connecticut State Dental Commission**

410 Capitol Avenue, MS #13PHO

P.O. Box 340308

Hartford, CT 06134-0308

860-509-7603

Fax 860-707-1984

E-mail: [oplcdph@ct.gov](mailto:oplcdph@ct.gov)

URL: [Connecticut State Dental Commission](http://Connecticut State Dental Commission)

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The practice act and regulations do not mention use of lasers. Section 20-126l(e)(2) prohibits dental hygienist from cutting or removing any hard or soft tissue.

[Chapter 379a - Dental Hygienists \(ct.gov\)](#)

**General Statutes of Connecticut**

**Title 20**

**Professional and Occupational Licensing, Certification, Title Protection and Registration.**

**Examining Boards**

**Chapter 379a Dental Hygienists**

**Sec. 20-126l. Definitions. Scope of practice. Limitations. Continuing education.**

**Exceptions.**

**January 1, 2019**

**Sec. 20-126l. Definitions. Scope of practice. Limitations. Continuing education. Exceptions.**

(e) A licensed dental hygienist shall not perform the following dental services: (1) Diagnosis for dental procedures or dental treatment; (2) the cutting or removal of any hard or soft tissue or suturing;

# Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

## Delaware

### State of Delaware

#### Division of Professional Regulation

#### Board of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene

Cannon Building, Suite 203

861 Silver Lake Blvd.

Dover, DE 19904

(302) 744-4500

Fax (302) 739-2711

E-mail: [customerservice.dpr@delaware.gov](mailto:customerservice.dpr@delaware.gov)

URL: <https://dpr.delaware.gov/boards/dental/>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Supervision: General

Summary: The practice act and regulations do not mention use of lasers. Rule 2.5 places the full responsibility for the work done by dental hygienists directly upon the dentist.

[1100.fm \(delaware.gov\)](http://1100.fm.delaware.gov)

State of Delaware

Title 24 Regulated Professions and Occupations

Delaware Administrative Code

Department of State

Division of Professional Regulation

1100 Board of Dentistry and Dental Hygiene

### 2.0 Auxiliary Personnel

2.5 Responsibilities - In summary, the Dental Board places full responsibility for the work done by auxiliary personnel directly upon the dentist. Violations of the regulations will be subject to penalties as spelled out in 24 Del.C. §1131(5).

### 5.0 Supervision

5.1 Conditions Applicable to General Supervision - A licensed dental hygienist, by virtue of having passed a licensure examination and being duly licensed by the State, is capable of performing those services allowed by law under supervision, the following conditions shall exist:

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**District of Columbia**

**DC Health**

**Board of Dentistry**

2201 Shannon Place SE

Washington, DC 20020

(202) 442-5955

Fax (202) 442-4795

E-mail: [doh@dc.gov](mailto:doh@dc.gov)

URL: <https://dchealth.dc.gov/node/146102>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The municipal regulations do not mention use of lasers.



## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Florida

#### Florida Department of Health

#### Board of Dentistry

4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-O4

Tallahassee, FL 32399-3258

(850) 245-4474

Fax 850-921-5389

E-mail: [MQALicensureServices@flhealth.gov](mailto:MQALicensureServices@flhealth.gov)

URL: <https://floridasdentistry.gov>

Scope of Practice: **Rule 64B5-16.001(1)**, <https://floridasdentistry.gov/Forms/laws-and-rules-dentistry.pdf>

Supervision: Direct, Indirect, or General

Summary: Dental hygienists may use lasers as an assessment device. Lasers are otherwise not permitted for remediable tasks.

<https://floridasdentistry.gov/Forms/laws-and-rules-dentistry.pdf>

#### Florida Department of State

#### Department of Health

#### Board of Dentistry

#### Rule 64B5 Florida Administrative Code

#### Chapter 64B5-16

#### Remediable Tasks Delegable to Dental Hygienists and Dental Assistants

November 28, 2022

#### 64B5-16.001 Definitions of Remediable Tasks and Supervision Levels.

(1) Remediable tasks, also referred to as expanded functions of dental hygienists and dental assistants, which are enumerated in Rules 64B5-16.006, 64B5-16.0061, 64B5-16.005, 64B5-16.0051, F.A.C., are those intra-oral tasks which do not create unalterable changes in the oral cavity or contiguous structures, are reversible and do not expose a patient to increased risks. **The use of a laser or laser device of any type is not a remediable task, unless utilized as an assessment device.**

(2) A dentist may delegate a remediable task to dental hygienists, and dental assistants so long as delegation of the task poses no increased risk to the patient and the requirements of training and supervision set out in Chapter 64B5-16, F.A.C., are met.

(3) Remediable tasks are those specified in Section 466.024, F.S., and those designated as such by the Board. The Board hereby designates the tasks listed in Chapter 64B5-16, F.A.C., as remediable tasks.

(4) Direct supervision requires that a licensed dentist examine the patient, diagnose a condition to be treated, authorize the procedure to be performed, be on the premises while the procedure is performed, and approve the work performed prior to the patient's departure from the premises.

(5) Indirect supervision requires that a licensed dentist examine the patient, diagnose a condition to be treated, authorize the procedure to be performed, and be on the premises while the procedure is performed.

## **Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

(6) General supervision requires that a licensed dentist authorizes the procedures to be performed but need not be present when the authorized procedures are being performed. The authorized procedures may also be performed at a place other than the dentist's usual place of practice.

(7) Any authorization for remediable tasks to be performed under general supervision is valid for a maximum of 24 months; after which, no further treatment under general supervision can be performed without another clinical exam by a Florida licensed dentist.

(8) Without supervision dental hygienists may perform the remediable tasks specified in Sections 466.023(3), 466.0235, and 466.024(2), F.S., as long as all provisions of the respective statute are met.

(9) Any tasks delegable to dental assistants will be delegable to dental hygienists under the same supervision level, unless otherwise stated in the rules.

*Rulemaking Authority 466.004(4), 466.024(1), (7) FS. Law Implemented 466.023, 466.0235, 466.024, 466.003(11), (12) FS. History—New 4-30-80, Amended 8-20-80, 1-28-81, 3-4-81, 10-8-85, Formerly 21G-16.01, Amended 6-30-86, 12-31-86, 7-5-87, 2-21-88, 1-18-89, Formerly 21G-16.001, Amended 3-30-94, Formerly 61F5-16.001, Amended 4-6-97, Formerly 59Q-16.001, Amended 1-6-99, 10-29-00, 2-5-09, 3-29-17, 12-9-18, 6-4-19, 3-25-20, 11-28-22.*

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Georgia

#### **Georgia Board of Dentistry**

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE

East Tower, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor

Atlanta, GA 30334

(404) 651-8000

Contact form: <https://gbd.georgia.gov/contact-us>

URL: <https://gbd.georgia.gov>

Scope of Practice: **Rule 150-5-.03(11)**, <https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/150-5-.03>  
and **Rule 150-5-.08**, <https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/150-5-.08>

Supervision: Direct

Summary: Nothing in these rules shall be construed as authorizing dental hygienists to utilize other techniques in the course of the performance of their duties, otherwise authorized by these rules. Only dentists licensed by the Georgia Board of Dentistry shall be authorized to perform procedures involving laser technology which alters tissue, creates thermal effect, or is intended to cut, coagulate, photocoagulate, vaporize, or ablate essentially any soft or hard tissues of the body.

A dental hygienist, under the direct supervision of a Georgia licensed dentist may use a dental diode laser limited to the use of bacterial reduction/disinfection of the gingival sulcus at settings that preclude hard and soft tissue removal except for incidental gingival curettage... Prior to utilizing a dental diode laser, the dental hygienist **must successfully complete interactive didactic and clinical training which includes laser safety, infection control, patient management and the operation of the specific laser(s) utilized in the dental practice.** Training must consist of not less than 8 hours of instruction.

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/150-5-.03>

**Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia**  
**Department 150. Rules of Georgia Board of Dentistry**  
**Chapter 150-5 Dental Hygiene**  
**1/3/22**

#### **Rule 150-5-.03 Supervision of Dental Hygienists**

(11) Nothing in these rules shall be construed as authorizing dental hygienists to utilize other techniques in the course of the performance of their duties, otherwise authorized by these rules. **Only dentists licensed by the Georgia Board of Dentistry shall be authorized to perform procedures involving laser technology which alters tissue, creates thermal effect, or is intended to cut, coagulate, photocoagulate, vaporize, or ablate essentially any soft or hard tissues of the body.**

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 150-5-.03

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-11-1, 43-11-7, 43-11-9, 43-11-17, 43-11-74.

History. Original Rule entitled "Supervision of Dental Hygienists" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965.

Amended: F. Dec. 14, 2021; eff. Jan. 3, 2022.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

<https://rules.sos.ga.gov/gac/150-5-.08>

### Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia Department 150. Rules of Georgia Board of Dentistry Chapter 150-5 Dental Hygiene 12/24/24

#### Rule 150-5-.08 Use of a Dental Diode Laser by a Dental Hygienist

(1) A dental hygienist, under the direct supervision of a Georgia licensed dentist may use a dental diode laser limited to the use of bacterial reduction/disinfection of the gingival sulcus at settings that preclude hard and soft tissue removal except for incidental gingival curettage, provided:

(a) Prior to utilizing a dental diode laser, the dental hygienist must successfully complete interactive didactic and clinical training which includes laser safety, infection control, patient management and the operation of the specific laser(s) utilized in the dental practice. Training must consist of not less than 8 hours of instruction, and must be obtained through a course provided or recognized by any of the following organizations, a successor organization thereof, or approved by the Board:

1. The Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association;
2. The American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program;

or

3. The Academy of General Dentistry Program Approval for Continuing Education.

(b) A dental hygienist utilizing a dental diode laser shall maintain evidence of required training which shall be prominently displayed at the location where the dental hygienist is authorized to utilize a dental diode laser.

(c) A dental hygienist utilizing a dental diode laser shall complete two (2) hours of continuing education every two (2) years in the use of dental diode lasers in the practice of dental hygiene.

(d) All lasers shall be used in accordance with accepted safety guidelines.

(2) When utilizing a dental diode laser pursuant to this Section, a dental hygienist shall document the following information in the patient's record:

- (a) the type of laser utilized, including the wavelength of the laser;
- (b) the settings used, such as pulse or continuous wave, and the power setting;
- (c) local anesthesia used, if any; and
- (d) the procedure attempted/performed, including details as to whether hard or soft tissue was removed.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 150-5-.08

Authority: O.C.G.A §§ 43-11-1, 43-11-7, 43-11-9, 43-11-73.1, 43-11-74.

History. Original Rule entitled "Use of a Dental Diode Laser by a Dental Hygienist." F. Dec. 4, 2024; eff. Dec. 24, 2024.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Guam

#### **Guam Board of Examiners for Dentistry**

194 Hernan Cortez Avenue  
Terlaje Professional Building  
Suite 213  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
(671) 735-7408  
E-mail: [Nicole.romero@dphss.guam.gov](mailto:Nicole.romero@dphss.guam.gov)  
URL: <https://guamhplo.org/gbed>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The administrative rules and regulations do not mention use of lasers. §8104 specifies the dentist is primarily responsible for all procedures which the dentist delegate to dental hygienists.

[https://guamhplo.org/sites/default/files/25gar\\_ch8\\_-\\_dental.pdf](https://guamhplo.org/sites/default/files/25gar_ch8_-_dental.pdf)

#### **25 Guam Administrative Rules and Regulations**

25 GAR – Professional & Vocational Regulations

Chapter 8

Guam Board of Dental Examiner

September 25, 1998

#### **§8104. Dental Hygienist.**

(f) Delegated Duties.

- (1) A dentist may **not** delegate irreversible tasks to dental hygienists.
- (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of rule, or regulation, the dentist is primarily responsible for all procedures which the dentist delegates to dental hygienists.
- (3) A dental hygienist may practice under the indirect supervision of a Guam licensed dentist.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Hawaii

**Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs  
Professional & Vocational Licensing Division  
Board of Dentistry**

HRH King Kalakaua Building  
335 Merchant Street, Rm. 301  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Mailing Address:

DCCA-PVL

P.O. Box 3469

Honolulu, HI 96801

(808) 586-3000

E-mail: [pvl@dcca.hawaii.gov](mailto:pvl@dcca.hawaii.gov)

URL: <http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/dentist>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Supervision: Direct or general

Summary: The practice act and regulations do not mention use of lasers. §447-3 states a dental hygienist may provide any other procedures delegated by a dentist in accordance with the rules of the board of dentistry.

[https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/files/2013/08/HRS\\_447-DentalHygienists0717.pdf](https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/files/2013/08/HRS_447-DentalHygienists0717.pdf)

#### **Hawaii Professional & Vocational Licensing Division**

#### **Hawaii Revised Statutes**

#### **Chapter 447**

#### **Dental Hygienists**

**July 2017**

**§447-3 Employment of and practice by dental hygienists.** (a) Any licensed dentist, legally incorporated eleemosynary dental dispensary or infirmary, private school, welfare center, hospital, nursing home, adult day care center or assisted living facility, mental institution, nonprofit health clinic, or the State or any county, may employ licensed dental hygienists.

(b) Clinical dental hygiene may be practiced by a licensed dental hygienist. The **practice of clinical dental hygiene is defined as** the removal of hard and soft deposits and stains from the portion of the crown and root surfaces to the depth of the gingival sulcus, polishing natural and restored surfaces of teeth, the application of preventive chemical agents to the coronal surfaces of teeth, which chemical agents have been approved by the board of dentistry, and the use of mouth washes approved by the board, but shall not include the performing of any repair work or the preparation thereof, or any other operation on the teeth or tissues of the mouth; provided that nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a dental hygienist from using or applying topically any chemical agent which has been approved in writing by the department of health for any of the purposes set forth in part V of chapter 321, **and other procedures delegated by a dentist in accordance with the rules of the board of dentistry.**

## **Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

(c) A licensed dental hygienist may operate in the office of any licensed dentist, or legally incorporated eleemosynary dental dispensary or infirmary, private school, welfare center, hospital, nursing home, adult day care center or assisted living facility, mental institution, nonprofit health clinic, or in any building owned or occupied by the State or any county, but only under the aforesaid employment and under the direct or general supervision of a licensed dentist as provided in section 447-1(f). No dental hygienist may establish or operate any separate care facility which exclusively renders dental hygiene services.

(d) Notwithstanding section 447-1(f), a licensed dental hygienist may operate under the supervision of any licensed dentist providing dental services in a public health setting. General supervision is permitted in a public health setting.; provided that the supervising licensed dentist is available for consultation; provided further that a licensed dental hygienist shall not perform any irreversible procedure or administer any intra-oral block anesthesia under general supervision. In a public health setting, the supervising licensed dentist shall be responsible for all delegated acts and procedures performed by a licensed dental hygienist. Notwithstanding section 447-1(f), a licensed dental hygienist under the general supervision of a licensed dentist employed in a public health setting may perform dental education, dental screenings, teeth cleanings, intra-oral or extra-oral photographs, x-rays if indicated, and fluoride applications on individuals who are not yet patients of record, have not yet been examined by a licensed dentist, or do not have a treatment plan. Other permissible duties shall be pre-screened and authorized by a supervising licensed dentist, subject to the dentist's determination that the equipment and facilities are appropriate and satisfactory to carry out the recommended treatment plan. A licensed dental hygienist shall refer individuals not currently under the care of a dentist and who are seen in a public health setting to a dental facility for further dental care. No direct reimbursements shall be provided to licensed dental hygienists.

As used in this subsection, "public health setting" includes but is not limited to dental services in a legally incorporated eleemosynary dental dispensary or infirmary, private or public school, welfare center, community center, public housing, hospital, nursing home, adult day care center or assisted living facility, mental institution, nonprofit health clinic or facility, or the State or any county.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Idaho

#### **Board of Dentistry**

PO Box 83720

Boise, ID 83720-0021

(208) 334-2369

Fax (208) 334-3247

E-mail: [SBD-info@dopl.idaho.gov](mailto:SBD-info@dopl.idaho.gov)

URL: [www.isbd.idaho.gov](http://www.isbd.idaho.gov)

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The statute and rules do not mention use of lasers. Rule **24.31.01** indicates dental hygienists are authorized under the supervision of a licensed dentist to perform dental hygiene services for which they are educated and trained unless prohibited by these rules.

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/statutesrules/idstat/Title54/T54CH9.pdf>

#### **Idaho Statute**

#### **Title 54**

#### **Professions, Vocations, and Businesses**

#### **Chapter 9**

#### **Dentists**

**July 1, 2024**

**54-902. Definition – Practice of Dental Hygiene.** The practice of dental hygiene is the doing by one (1) person for a direct or indirect consideration of one (1) or more of the following with respect to the teeth or dental health of another person, namely, cleaning, polishing, removing stains or concretions; performing nonsurgical periodontal therapy; administering prescribed anesthetics or medicaments; applying preventive agents; performing nonsurgical, clinical and laboratory oral diagnostic tests for interpretation by a dentist; preparation of preliminary records of oral conditions; and such other dental services as specified by the dentist unless prohibited by the board in its adopted rules.

<https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/24/243101.pdf>

#### **IDAPA 24 – Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses**

#### **Idaho State Board of Dentistry**

#### **24.31.01 – Rules of the Idaho Board of Dentistry**

**July 1, 2024**

#### **200.PRACTICE STANDARDS.**

**01. Dental Hygienists – Practice.** Dental hygienists are authorized under the supervision of a licensed dentist to perform dental hygiene services for which they are educated and trained unless prohibited by these rules. (7-1-24)



## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Illinois

#### Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

##### Board of Dentistry

Chicago Office:

555 West Monroe Street

5<sup>th</sup> Floor

Chicago, IL 60601

(888) 473-4858

Springfield Office:

320 West Washington Street

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Springfield, IL 62786

(888) 473-4858

Contact form: <https://idfpr.illinois.gov/profs/email/prfgrp09.html>

URL: <https://idfpr.illinois.gov/profs/dentist.html>

Scope of Practice: **§1220.240,**

<https://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/068/068012200B02400R.html>

Summary: Dental hygienists are prohibited from using lasers to remove tissue.

<https://ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1296&ChapterID=24>

#### Illinois Compiled Statutes Regulation

#### Chapter 225 Professions, Occupations, and Business Operations Health

#### 225 ILCS 25/ Illinois Dental Practice Act August 24, 2009

(225 ILCS 25/7.5)

Sec. 7.5. Emerging scientific technology and applications. In the interest of public safety, the Board may review emerging scientific technology and applications and, when appropriate, recommend that the Department adopt rules to govern the appropriate use and require the appropriate training needed for this technology by dental hygienists and assistants acting under the supervision of a dentist. “Emerging scientific technology” may include without limitation laser treatments and other treatments and potential treatments that, if used incorrectly, could have an adverse effect on patient health and safety.

(Source: P.A. 96-617, eff. 8-24-09.)

<https://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/068/068012200B02400R.html>

#### Administrative Code

#### Title 68: Professions and Occupations

#### Chapter VII: Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

#### Subchapter b: Professions and Occupations

#### Part 1220 Illinois Dental Practice Act

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**September 2, 2016**

**Section 1220.240 Prescribed Duties of Professional Hygienists**

d) Dental hygienists shall not perform those procedures that constitute the practice of dentistry as described in the Act. Hygienists may not perform procedures that require the professional judgment and skill of a dentist. Such **prohibited procedures include**, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- 7) **Use of a laser to remove tissue.**

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Indiana**

**Indiana Professional Licensing Agency**

**Dentistry Board**

Indiana Government Center South, Room W072

402 West Washington Street

Indianapolis, IN 46204

(317) 232-2960

E-mail: [pla8@pla.IN.gov](mailto:pla8@pla.IN.gov)

URL: <https://www.in.gov/pla/professions/dentistry-home/>

Scope of Practice: **IC 25-13-1-10**, <https://iga.in.gov/laws/2020/ic/titles/25#25-13-1-10>

Supervision: Direct or prescriptive supervision

Summary: A dental hygienist may use a laser, except to cut, ablate, or cauterize hard or soft tissue to provide treatment to a patient.

<https://iga.in.gov/laws/2020/ic/titles/25#25-13-1-10>

**Indiana Code**

**Title 25. Professions and Occupations**

**Article 13. Dental Hygienists**

**Chapter 1. Regulation of Dental Hygienists by State Board of Dentistry**

**Section 10. Locations for practice of dental hygiene; supervision requirements; laser treatments; rules  
2020**

**IC 25-13-1-10 (c)** A dental hygienist may use a laser, except to cut, ablate, or cauterize hard or soft tissue to provide treatment to a patient.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Iowa

#### **Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, & Licensing**

##### **Dental Board**

6200 Park Ave.

Suite 100

Des Moines, IA 50321

(515) 281-5157

URL: <https://dial.iowa.gov/boards-0/dental-board>

Scope of Practice: **Iowa Board of Dental Examiners Position Statement – Use of Lasers**, April 17, 2003, <https://dial.iowa.gov/media/7803/download?inline=>

Supervision: General, direct, or public health supervision

Summary: The board recommends that all licensees need to be fully instructed in a recognized course prior to utilizing a laser. In addition, any services provided by a licensee, regardless of the device used, must be within the scope of practice for each licensee. Dental hygienists, for example, cannot utilize a laser or other device to cut tissue.

<https://dial.iowa.gov/media/7803/download?inline=>

**Iowa Board of Dental Examiners  
Position Statement – Use of Lasers  
April 17, 2003**

The board recommends that all licensees need to be fully instructed in a recognized course prior to utilizing a laser. In addition, any services provided by a licensee, regardless of the device used, must be within the scope of practice for each licensee. Dental hygienists, for example, cannot utilize a laser or other device to cut tissue. Furthermore, all licensees should ensure the services they provide are within the standard of care.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Kansas

#### **Kansas Dental Board**

900 SW Jackson

Room 455-S

Topeka, KS 66612

(785) 296-6400

E-mail: [dental.info@ks.gov](mailto:dental.info@ks.gov)

URL: <https://www.dental.ks.gov/>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Supervision: Direct or general

Summary: The practice act and regulations do not mention use of lasers. §65-1456 includes preventive and therapeutic procedures within the dental hygiene scope of practice.

<https://www.dental.ks.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/710/638319619128600000>

#### **Kansas Dental Board Statutes**

#### **Chapter 65. – Public Health**

#### **Article 14.—Regulation of Dentists and Dental Hygienists**

**Revised January 2020**

**65-1456. Dental hygienists; suspension or revocation of licenses, when; notice and hearing; practice of dental hygiene defined; rules and regulations; supervision defined; where performance of practice authorized, issuance of permits therefor; authorized activities, requirements.**

(b) The practice of dental hygiene shall include those educational, preventive, and therapeutic procedures which result in the removal of extraneous deposits, stains and debris from the teeth and the rendering of smooth surfaces of the teeth to the depths of the gingival sulci. Included among those educational, preventive and therapeutic procedures are the instruction of the patient as to daily personal care, protecting the teeth from dental caries, the scaling and polishing of the crown surfaces and the planing of the root surfaces, in addition to the curettage of those soft tissues lining the free gingiva to the depth of the gingival sulcus and such additional educational, preventive and therapeutic procedures as the board may establish by rules and regulations.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the practice of dental hygiene shall be performed under the direct or general supervision of a licensed dentist at the office of such licensed dentist. The board shall designate by rules and regulations the procedures which may be performed by a dental hygienist under direct supervision and the procedures which may be performed under general supervision of a licensed dentist. As used in this section: (1) “Direct supervision” means that the dentist is in the dental office, personally diagnoses the condition to be treated, personally authorizes the procedure and before dismissal of the patient evaluates the performance; and (2) “general supervision” means a Kansas licensed dentist may delegate verbally or by written authorization the performance of a service, task or procedure to a licensed dental hygienist under the supervision and responsibility of the dentist, if the dental hygienist is licensed to perform the function, and the supervising dentist examines the patient at the time the dental hygiene procedure is performed, or during the 12 calendar months preceding the

## **Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

performance of the procedure, except that the licensed hygienist shall not be permitted to diagnose a dental disease or ailment, prescribe any treatment or a regimen thereof, prescribe, order or dispense medication or perform any procedure which is irreversible or which involves the intentional cutting of the soft or hard tissue by any means. A dentist is not required to be on the premises at the time a hygienist performs a function delegated under part (2) of this subsection.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Kentucky

#### Kentucky Board of Dentistry

312 Whittington Parkway

Suite 101

Louisville, KY 40222

(502) 429-7280

Fax (502) 429-7282

E-mail: <https://dentistry.ky.gov/Pages/contact.aspx>

URL: <https://dentistry.ky.gov>

Scope of Practice: **KAR 8:562 Section 14,**

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/201/008/563/>

Supervision: Direct

Summary: A dental hygienist may perform laser debridement after submitting documentation proving successful completion of a board-approved course in performing laser debridement.

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/201/008/563/>

#### **Boards and Commissions**

#### **Board of Dentistry**

#### **Title 201, Chapter 008, Regulation 563**

#### **201 KAR 8:563 Licensure of dental hygienists.**

#### **Section 14. Requirements for **Laser Debridement** Registration.**

7/4/23

(1) An individual licensed as a dental hygienist in Kentucky and not subject to disciplinary action who desires to perform laser debridement shall:

(a) Submit a signed and completed Application for Dental Hygiene Special Registrations;

(b) Pay the fee required by 201 KAR 8:520; and

(c) **Submit documentation proving successful completion of a board-approved course in performing laser debridement.**

(2) An individual authorized to practice pursuant to this provision shall receive a license from the board indicating registration to perform laser debridement.

(3) A licensed dental hygienist shall not perform laser debridement if the licensee does not:

(a) Hold a board-issued registration to perform laser debridement; or

(b) Work under the **direct supervision of a dentist.**

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Louisiana

#### Louisiana State Board of Dentistry

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 5256

Baton Rouge, LA 70821-5256

Physical Address:

18212 East Petroleum Drive

Suite 2-B

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

(225) 219-7330

URL: <http://www.lsbdb.org>

Scope of Practice: §701(B)(2) & §1301, <http://www.lsbdb.org/applications/46v33.pdf>

Summary: A dentist may not delegate to a dental hygienist a surgical or cutting procedure on hard or soft tissue including with a laser. A laser capable of the removal of hard or soft tissue may be employed in the treatment of a dental patient only by a licensed dentist.

<http://www.lsbdb.org/applications/46v33.pdf>

**Louisiana Administrative Code**

**Title 46**

**Professional and Occupational Standards**

**Part XXXIII. Dental Health Profession**

**Chapter 7. Dental Hygienists**

**February 2021**

#### §701. Authorized Duties

A. Dental hygienists are expressly authorized to perform the procedure referred to as an oral prophylaxis, which is defined as the removal of plaque, calculus and stains from the exposed and unexposed surfaces of the teeth by scaling and polishing as a preventive measure for the control of local irritational factors.

B. A person licensed to practice dentistry in the state of Louisiana may delegate to any dental hygienist any chairside dental act which said dentist deems reasonable, using sound professional judgment. Such act must be performed properly and safely on the patient. Furthermore, the act must be under the direct on-premises supervision of the treating dentist. A **dentist may not delegate to a dental hygienist:**

1. comprehensive examination or diagnosis and treatment planning;
2. a **surgical or cutting procedure on hard or soft tissue including laser** and micro abrasion reduction of tooth material;

**Louisiana Administrative Code**

**Title 46**

**Professional and Occupational Standards**

**Part XXXIII. Dental Health Profession**

**Chapter 13. Dental Laser and Air Abrasion Utilization**



**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**October 2003**

§1301. Requirements

A. A laser capable of the removal of hard or soft tissue may be employed in the treatment of a dental patient only by a licensed dentist.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Maine

#### Department of Professional & Financial Regulation

#### Maine Board of Dental Practice

Mailing address:

143 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0143

Delivery address/physical location:

Department of Professional & Financial Regulation  
Board of Dental Practice  
76 Northern Avenue  
Gardiner, ME 04345

(207) 287-3333

TTY users call Maine relay 711

Fax (207) 287-8140

E-mail: [dental.board@maine.gov](mailto:dental.board@maine.gov)

URL: <https://www.maine.gov/dental>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Supervision: Direct

Summary: The practice act and regulations do not mention use of lasers. §18374 allows dental hygienists to perform all procedures necessary for complete prophylaxis, including scaling and root planning and periodontal maintenance.

<https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/32/title32ch143.pdf>

#### Maine Revised Statutes

#### Title 32: Professions and Occupations

#### Chapter 143: Dental Professions

#### Subchapter 4: Scope of Practices; Supervision; Practice

October 1, 2024

#### §18374. Dental hygienist

**1. Scope of practice; direct supervision.** A dental hygienist and faculty dental hygienist may perform the following under the **direct supervision of a dentist**:

**2. Scope of practice.** A dental hygienist and faculty dental hygienist may perform all of the activities that may be delegated to an unlicensed person pursuant to section [18371, subsection 3](#). A **dental hygienist and faculty dental hygienist may also perform the following procedures**:

S. Perform all procedures necessary for a complete prophylaxis, including but not limited to scaling and root planing and periodontal maintenance;

#### §18375. Independent practice dental hygienist

**1. Scope of practice.** An independent practice dental hygienist may perform the following duties:

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

E. Perform all procedures necessary for a complete prophylaxis, including but not limited to scaling and root planing and periodontal maintenance;

**§18376. Public health dental hygienist**

**1. Scope of practice.** A public health dental hygienist may perform the following procedures in a public health setting:

P. Perform all procedures necessary for a complete prophylaxis, including but not limited to scaling and root planing and periodontal maintenance;

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Maryland**

**Maryland Department of Health**

**Board of Dental Examiners**

Spring Grove Hospital Center

Benjamin Rush Bldg.

55 Wade Avenue

Catonsville, MD 21228

(410) 402-8500

Fax (410) 402-8505

E-mail: [mdh.mddentalboard@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.mddentalboard@maryland.gov)

URL: <https://health.maryland.gov/dental/>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The practice act and regulations do not mention use of lasers. The Board of Dental Examiners' *Dental Auxiliaries Permissible Procedures Chart* does not include laser bleaching within the scope of dental hygiene.

<https://health.maryland.gov/dental/Documents/Licensing%20Documents/DENTAL%20AUXILIARIES%20PROCEDURES%20CHART%203-17-20-V7.pdf#search=permissible%20procedures%20chart>

**Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners  
Dental Auxiliaries Permissible Procedures Chart – March 17, 2020**

Procedure	RDH
Bleaching – Internal or Laser	NO
Oral Cancer – Tissue/cell removal – biopsy procedures Scalpel / dental laser	NO

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Massachusetts**

**Massachusetts Board of Registration in Dentistry**

250 Washington Street  
 Boston, MA 02108  
 (800) 414-0168  
 (617) 973-0971  
 Fax (617) 973-0980  
 E-mail: [dentistry.admin@state.ma.us](mailto:dentistry.admin@state.ma.us)  
 URL: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/board-of-registration-in-dentistry>

Scope of Practice: **234 CMR 5.11**, [https://www.mass.gov/regulations/234-CMR-500-requirements-for-the-practice-of-dentistry-dental-hygiene-and-dental-assisting?\\_gl=1\\*jw758c\\*\\_ga\\*MTYyODgzMzI5MS4xNzM1Mzk5MDk3\\*\\_ga\\_MCLPEGW7WM\\*MTczNTM5OTM4Ni4xLjAuMTczNTM5OTM4Ni4wLjAuMA](https://www.mass.gov/regulations/234-CMR-500-requirements-for-the-practice-of-dentistry-dental-hygiene-and-dental-assisting?_gl=1*jw758c*_ga*MTYyODgzMzI5MS4xNzM1Mzk5MDk3*_ga_MCLPEGW7WM*MTczNTM5OTM4Ni4xLjAuMTczNTM5OTM4Ni4wLjAuMA)

Supervision: Direct

Summary: Dental hygienists may use diagnostic and periodontic non-cutting lasers.

[https://www.mass.gov/regulations/234-CMR-500-requirements-for-the-practice-of-dentistry-dental-hygiene-and-dental-assisting?\\_gl=1\\*jw758c\\*\\_ga\\*MTYyODgzMzI5MS4xNzM1Mzk5MDk3\\*\\_ga\\_MCLPEGW7WM\\*MTczNTM5OTM4Ni4xLjAuMTczNTM5OTM4Ni4wLjAuMA..#downloads](https://www.mass.gov/regulations/234-CMR-500-requirements-for-the-practice-of-dentistry-dental-hygiene-and-dental-assisting?_gl=1*jw758c*_ga*MTYyODgzMzI5MS4xNzM1Mzk5MDk3*_ga_MCLPEGW7WM*MTczNTM5OTM4Ni4xLjAuMTczNTM5OTM4Ni4wLjAuMA..#downloads)

**234 CMR: Board of Registration in Dentistry  
 Regulation 234 CMR 5.00  
 Requirements for the practice of dentistry, dental hygiene, and dental assisting  
 May 7, 2015**

5.11: Delegable Procedures

Registered Dental Hygienists (RDH), Public Health Dental Hygienist (PHDH)  
 General Supervision (G), Written Collaborative Agreement (WCA), Direct Supervision (D),  
 Immediate Supervision (I), Delegation Not Allowed (N/A)

	Delegated Duty	RDH	PHDH
(48)	Use diagnostic and periodontic non-cutting lasers	RDH D	PHDS N/A
(52)	Apply bleaching agents and activate with non-laser non-curing device	RDH G	PHDH WCA

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/use-of-lasers-in-dentistry-0/download>

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
 Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
 Department of Public Health  
 Division of Health Professions Licensure  
 Board of Registration in Dentistry  
 Policy on the Use of Lasers in Dentistry  
 April 3, 2013**

## **Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

Delegation to dental auxiliaries may only occur when both the supervising dentist and registered dental hygienist obtain proper training on the use of dental laser devices, and use the devices within their licensed scope of practice, training and experience. Guidance for the profession for safe dental laser use is provided by American National Standards Institute Standard Z136.1 Safe Use of Lasers and Z136.3 Safe Use of Lasers in Health Care Facilities. Specific training is also available from manufacturers, and via independent providers of continuing education, including professional organizations and academic institutions. Continuing education programs/presenters should address and disclose possible conflicts of interest. At the present time, the ADA's Commission on Dental Accreditation does not include laser education in its accreditation standards for dental education programs. However, proposed educational standards are available (e.g., Academy of Laser Dentistry's Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education).

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Michigan**

Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

Bureau of Professional Licensing

Ottawa Building

611 W. Ottawa

P.O. Box 30004

Lansing, MI 48909

(517) 241-7500

(517) 241-0199

Fax (517) 241-9416

E-mail: [BPL-BoardSupport@michigan.gov](mailto:BPL-BoardSupport@michigan.gov)

URL: <https://www.michigan.gov/lara/bureau-list/bpl/health/hp-lic-health-prof/dental>

Scope of Practice: **R 338.11411 (4)**,

<https://ars.apps.lara.state.mi.us/AdminCode/DownloadAdminCodeFile?FileName=R%20338.11101%20to%20R%20338.11821.pdf>

and **Position Statement** on Use of Laser Equipment by Health Professionals,

<https://www.michigan.gov/lara/bureau-list/cscl/corps/corporations/intro/use-of-laser-equipment-by-health-professionals>

Supervision: Direct

Summary: A dental hygienist may perform soft tissue curettage with or without a dental laser.

A physician/dentist may delegate the use of laser equipment to a licensed or unlicensed individual if the delegated individual works under the physician/dentist’s supervision. The position statement includes minimum requirements for supervision.

<https://ars.apps.lara.state.mi.us/AdminCode/DownloadAdminCodeFile?FileName=R%20338.11101%20to%20R%20338.11821.pdf>

**Michigan Administrative Code  
Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
Director’s Office  
Dentistry – General Rules  
2/23/24**

R 338.11411 Delegated and assigned dental procedures for allied dental personnel

(4) Table 1 - Delegated and Assigned Dental Procedures for Allied Dental Personnel

	<b>RDH</b>	Procedure
(ss)	<b>D</b>	<b>Performing soft tissue curettage with or without a dental laser.</b>

(5) As used in subrule (4) of this rule:

(b) **“D” means direct supervision**, as that term is defined in R 338.11401.

History: 2021 AACs; 2023 MR 19, Eff. Oct. 2, 2023.

**Part 4A. Delegation, Supervision, Assignment of UDAs, RDAs, and RDHs  
R 338.11401 Definitions.**

Rule 1401. As used in this part:

## **Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

- (c) “Direct supervision” means that a dentist complies with all of the following:
- (i) Designates a patient of record upon whom the procedures are to be performed and describes the procedures to be performed.
  - (ii) Examines the patient before prescribing the procedures to be performed and upon completion of the procedures.
  - (iii) Is physically present in the office when the procedures are being performed.

<https://www.michigan.gov/lara/bureau-list/cscl/corps/corporations/intro/use-of-laser-equipment-by-health-professionals>

### **Use of Laser Equipment by Health Professionals Position Statement of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs 12/5/05**

A physician/dentist may delegate the use of laser equipment to a licensed or unlicensed individual if the delegated individual works under the physician/dentist’s supervision. In this context, supervision, as defined by the Public Health Code, requires at least all of the following:

- Acknowledgment by the physician/dentist that the delegated individual has the appropriate education, training or experience to properly use lasers.
- Continuous availability of direct communication in person, or by radio, telephone or other telecommunication, between the physician/dentist and the delegated individual.
- Regularly scheduled availability of the physician/dentist to consult, educate, and review the records and practice of the delegated individual in laser use.
- Development by the physician/dentist of written procedures and protocols to guide the delegated individual’s laser use.



**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Minnesota**

**Minnesota Board of Dentistry**

335 Randolph Ave

Suite 250

St. Paul, MN 55102

(612) 617-2250

Toll Free (888) 240-4762

Fax (651) 797-1373

MN Relay Service for Hearing Impaired: (800) 627-3529

E-mail: [dental.board@state.mn.us](mailto:dental.board@state.mn.us)

URL: <https://mn.gov/boards/dentistry/current-licensee/requirements>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The administrative rules do not mention use of lasers.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Mississippi

#### Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners

715 S. Pear Orchard Road  
Suite 200 (Plaza I)  
Ridgeland, MS 39157  
(601) 944-9622  
Fax (601) 944-9624  
E-mail: [dental@dentalboard.ms.gov](mailto:dental@dentalboard.ms.gov)  
URL: <https://www.dentalboard.ms.gov>

Scope of Practice: **Dental Auxiliaries Frequently Asked Questions**,  
<https://www.dentalboard.ms.gov/frequently-asked-questions/dental-auxiliaries-frequently-asked-questions>

Supervision: Direct when using the KaVo DIAGNOdent.

Summary: Board Regulation does not mention use of lasers. According to Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners' Dental Auxiliaries Frequently Asked Questions, dental hygienists may use the KaVo DIAGNOdent under direct supervision. Dental hygienists are not allowed to use a laser to perform gingival curettage, perform sulcular debridement of periodontal pockets, remove facial hair, or to use soft tissue lasers to assist in the treatment of periodontal diseases and other soft tissue disorders.

<https://www.dentalboard.ms.gov/frequently-asked-questions/dental-auxiliaries-frequently-asked-questions>

#### Mississippi State Board of Dental Examiners Dental Auxiliaries Frequently Asked Questions

##### **Are dental hygienists allowed to perform gingival curettage with Biolase?**

No. Licensed Mississippi dental hygienists are not allowed to perform gingival curettage with Biolase; however, licensed Mississippi dentists may use Biolase for gingival curettage. Refer to [Miss. Code Ann. §73-9-3](#) and [Board Regulation 13](#).

##### **Are dental auxiliaries allowed to use the Kavo Diagnodent?**

Yes. Licensed Mississippi dental hygienists and dental assistants may use the Kavo Diagnodent under the direct supervision of a licensed Mississippi dentist. Refer to [Board Regulation 13](#).

##### **Are dental auxiliaries allowed to perform sulcular debridement of periodontal pockets using a Diode dental laser? Also, are dental hygienists allowed to utilize lasers for bacteria reduction and/or reduction of pocket depths?**

No. At its 02/24/2006 meeting, the Board determined that licensed Mississippi dental hygienists and dental assistants are not allowed to perform sulcular debridement of periodontal pockets using a Diode dental laser. Furthermore, at its 03/12/2010 meeting, the Board considered a request as to whether licensed Mississippi dental hygienists are allowed to use lasers for bacteria reduction and/or reduction of pocket depths. The Board noted this question had been addressed by its 02/24/2006 determination, wherein the Board opined that licensed Mississippi dental

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

hygienists and dental assistants ARE NOT allowed to perform sulcular debridement of periodontal pockets using a Diode dental laser. Refer to [Board Regulation 13](#).

### **Are dental auxiliaries allowed to remove facial hair with lasers in a dental office?**

No. At its 06/16/2006 meeting, the Board determined that licensed Mississippi dental hygienists and dental assistants are not allowed to remove facial hair with lasers in a dental office. Refer to [Board Regulation 13](#).

### **Are licensed Mississippi dental hygienists allowed to use soft tissue lasers to assist in the treatment of periodontal diseases and other soft tissue disorders?**

No. At its 04/06/2007 meeting, the Board determined that licensed Mississippi dental hygienists are not allowed to use soft tissue lasers to assist in the treatment of periodontal diseases and other soft tissue disorders under the direct supervision of licensed Mississippi dentists. Refer to [Board Regulation 13](#)

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Missouri**

**Missouri Dental Board**

3605 Missouri Boulevard

P.O. Box 1367

Jefferson City, MO 65102-1367

(573) 751-0040

Fax (573) 751-8216

TTY (800) 735-2966

Voice Relay (800) 735-2466

E-mail: [dental@pr.mo.gov](mailto:dental@pr.mo.gov)

URL: <https://pr.mo.gov/dental.asp>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The rules and statutes do not mention use of lasers.

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Montana**

**Montana Board of Dentistry**

Mailing Address:

Board of Dentistry

PO Box 200513

Helena, MT 59620-0513

Physical Address:

Board of Dentistry

301 S. Park Avenue

4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Helena, MT 59620

(406) 444-6880

E-mail: [dlibsdhhelp@mt.gov](mailto:dlibsdhhelp@mt.gov)

URL: <http://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/den>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The administrative rules do not mention use of lasers.

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Nebraska**

**Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services**

**Dentistry**

Mailing Address:

Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services

P.O. Box 95026

Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

Physical Address:

301 Centennial Mall South

Lincoln, NE 68509

(402) 471-3121

TDD (800) 833-7352

URL: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Dentistry.aspx>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: Statutes and regulations do not mention use of lasers.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Nevada

#### **Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners**

2651 N Green Valley Pkwy

Suite 104

Henderson, NV 89014

(702) 486-7044

(800) 337-3926

Fax (702) 486-7046

E-mail: [nsbde@dental.nv.gov](mailto:nsbde@dental.nv.gov)

URL: <http://dental.nv.gov>

Scope of Practice: **NAC 631.030, NAC 631.033, NAC 631.035, NAC 631.210,**

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nac/nac-631.html>

and **Advisory Opinion AO-15-0619,**

<https://dental.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dentalnvgov/content/Licensure/Resources/AO-15-0619%20-%20regarding%20clarification%20on%20the%20types%20of%20lasers%20to%20be%20utilized%20pursuant%20to%20NAC%20631.033%20and%20NAC%20631.035.pdf>

Supervision: Supervision by a dentist

Summary: A dentist licensed in Nevada may authorize a dental hygienist in his or her employ and under his or her supervision to use a laser that has been cleared by the Food and Drug Administration to perform intrasulcular periodontal procedures or tooth whitening procedures if:

(1) The use of such a laser for those purposes is within the scope of the education, experience and training of the dental hygienist;

(2) Before operating the laser, the dental hygienist has provided proof to the supervising dentist that the dental hygienist has successfully completed a course in laser proficiency that:

(I) Is at least 6 hours in length; and

(II) Is based on the *Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education*, adopted by reference pursuant to [NAC 631.035](#); and

(3) The supervising dentist has successfully completed a course in laser proficiency that:

(I) Is at least 6 hours in length; and

(II) Is based on the *Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education*, adopted by reference pursuant to [NAC 631.035](#).

Through a June 19, 2015 Advisory Opinion 15-0619, the Board issued an opinion that lasers used for diagnostic purposes are exempt from NAC 631.033 and NAC 631.035 but are required to be cleared by the Food and Drug Administration.

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nac/nac-631.html>

**Nevada Revised Administrative Code  
Chapter 631 – Dentistry and Dental Hygiene  
August 2019  
September 23, 2019**

**NAC 631.030 Provision of certain information and documentation by applicant for licensure; provision of certain additional information for licensure by endorsement;**

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

**requirements for use of laser radiation** in practice. ([NRS 622.530](#), [631.190](#), [631.220](#), [631.230](#), [631.255](#), [631.272](#), [631.274](#), [631.290](#))

3. An applicant for licensure who wishes to use laser radiation in his or her practice of dentistry or dental hygiene must provide to the Board:

(a) A statement certifying that each laser that will be used by the licensee in the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene has been cleared by the Food and Drug Administration for use in dentistry; and

(b) Proof that he or she has successfully completed a course in laser proficiency that:

(1) Is at least 6 hours in length; and

(2) Is based on the *Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser*

*Education*, adopted by reference pursuant to [NAC 631.035](#).

[Bd. of Dental Exam'rs, § III, eff. 7-21-82] — (NAC A 10-21-83; 12-15-87; 4-3-89; 9-6-96; R169-01, 4-5-2002; R139-05, 12-29-2005; R159-08, 4-23-2009; R143-17, 5-16-2018)

**NAC 631.033 Use of laser radiation in practice: Documentation required with application for renewal of license.** ([NRS 631.190](#), [631.330](#)) Each licensee who uses or wishes to use laser radiation in his or her practice of dentistry or dental hygiene must include with the application for renewal of his or her license:

1. A statement certifying that each laser used by the licensee in his or her practice of dentistry or dental hygiene has been cleared by the Food and Drug Administration for use in dentistry; and

2. Proof that he or she has successfully completed a course in laser proficiency that:

(a) Is at least 6 hours in length; and

(b) Is based on the *Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education*,

adopted by reference pursuant to [NAC 631.035](#).

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Dental Exam'rs by R139-05, eff. 12-29-2005)

**NAC 631.035 Use of laser radiation in practice: Adoption by reference of Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education.** ([NRS 631.190](#))

1. The Board hereby adopts by reference the *Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education*, adopted by the Academy of Laser Dentistry. The *Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education* is available, free of charge, from the Academy of Laser Dentistry:

(a) By mail, at P.O. Box 8667, Coral Springs, Florida 33075;

(b) By telephone, at (954) 346-3776; or

(c) At the Internet address

[http://www.laserdentistry.org/prof/edu\\_curriculumguidelines.cfm](http://www.laserdentistry.org/prof/edu_curriculumguidelines.cfm).

2. The Board will periodically review the *Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education* and determine within 30 days after the review whether any change made to those guidelines and standards is appropriate for application in this State. If the Board does not disapprove a change to an adopted guideline or standard within 30 days after the review, the change is deemed to be approved by the Board.

(Added to NAC by Bd. of Dental Exam'rs by R139-05, eff. 12-29-2005)



## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

**NAC 631.210 Dental hygienists: Authorization to perform certain services; referral of patient to authorizing dentist for certain purposes.** ([NRS 631.190](#), [631.310](#), [631.313](#), [631.317](#))

3. A **dentist** who is licensed in this State **may authorize a dental hygienist** in his or her employ and under his or her supervision to:

(e) Apply and activate agents for **bleaching teeth with a light source.**

(f) Use a laser that has been cleared by the Food and Drug Administration to perform **intrasulcular periodontal procedures or tooth whitening procedures if:**

(1) The use of such a laser for those purposes is within the scope of the education, experience and training of the dental hygienist;

(2) Before operating the laser, the dental hygienist has provided proof to the supervising dentist that the dental hygienist has successfully completed a course in laser proficiency that:

(I) Is at least 6 hours in length; and

(II) Is based on the *Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education*, adopted by reference pursuant to [NAC 631.035](#); and

(3) The supervising dentist has successfully completed a course in laser proficiency that:

(I) Is at least 6 hours in length; and

(II) Is based on the *Curriculum Guidelines and Standards for Dental Laser Education*, adopted by reference pursuant to [NAC 631.035](#).

[Bd. of Dental Exam'rs, § XXIII, eff. 7-21-82] — (NAC A 7-30-84; 4-3-89; 3-11-96; R154-97, 1-14-98; R217-99, 4-3-2000; R231-03, 5-25-2004; R139-05, 12-29-2005; R066-11, 2-15-2012; R119-15, 6-28-2016)

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-631.html>

### Nevada Revised Statute

### Chapter 631

### Dentistry, Dental Hygiene, Dental Therapy and Expanded Function Dental Assistance Licenses 6/29/24

**NRS 631.215 Persons deemed to be practicing dentistry; regulations regarding clinical practice of dentistry.**

1. **Any person shall be deemed to be practicing dentistry who:**

(k) **Uses X-ray radiation or laser radiation for dental treatment or dental diagnostic purposes, unless the person is authorized by the regulations of the Board to engage in such activities without being a licensed dentist;**

2. **Nothing in this section:**

(b) **Prevents a dental hygienist or dental therapist from administering local anesthesia for pain management during treatment or using X-ray radiation or laser radiation for dental treatment or dental diagnostic purposes, upon authorization of a licensed dentist.**

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

<https://dental.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dentalnv.gov/content/Licensure/Resources/AO-15-0619%20-%20regarding%20clarification%20on%20the%20types%20of%20lasers%20to%20be%20utilized%20pursuant%20to%20NAC%20631.033%20and%20NAC%20631.035.pdf>

Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners

Advisory Opinion AO-15-0619

June 19, 2015

The motion was passed unanimously that the Board issue an opinion that lasers used for diagnostic purposes are exempt from NAC 631.033 and NAC 631.035 but are required to be cleared by the Food and Drug Administration.

[https://dental.nv.gov/Licensure/Resources/BOARD\\_APPROVED\\_CERTIFICATION\\_PROGRAMS/COURSES/](https://dental.nv.gov/Licensure/Resources/BOARD_APPROVED_CERTIFICATION_PROGRAMS/COURSES/)

Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners

Board Approved Certification Programs/Courses

Laser Certification Board Approved Programs/Courses

**Board Approved Lasers Proficiency Courses (Dentists and Dental Hygienists):** Please note: Online courses are NOT recognized for meeting laser proficiency requirement. Please verify with provider of **specific** laser course approved by the Nevada State Dental Board. Not all courses offered by a provider are recognized.

***Note: Although the Board has approved the following laser courses for satisfying laser proficiency requirements, a course may contain additional instruction for laser services not permissible in Nevada. Prior to conducting use of the laser, Licensees are advised to refer to their regulations to verify intended laser service is within their scope of practice permissible in the State of Nevada. Note – Dental Hygienists: The supervising dentist must have also successfully completed a proficiency laser course recognized by the NSBDE:***

- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Dentistry** – Laser Certification Training/Laser Practice Refinement (NSBDE Approval Course #14-041) – Instructor: Janet Press, RDH
- **Advanced Dental Institute** (formerly Advanced Dental CE) – Laser Education Curriculum (NSBDE Approval Course #17-024) - Instructor: Dr. Brad LaBrecque
- **Advanced Dental Hygiene** – Diode Laser Training & Certification (NSBDE Course #19-017) – Instructor(s): Joy Raskie, RDH; Linda A Hirce, RDH; Heather Gill, RDH, Janessa Bock, RDH
- **Advanced Integration and Mentoring** – Utilization of the 970nm Diode Laser & Laser Safety In Dentistry (NSBDE Approval Course #11-060) – Instructor(s): Dr. Scott Benjamin; Jan LeBeau, RDH
- **Advanced Laser Training** – Ultimate Laser Certification (LIVE) (NSBDE Approval Course #11-054) – Instructor: Dr. Chris Owens
- **Christopher J Walinski, DDS** – Diode Laser Dental Training Course (NSBDE Approval Course #14-043) – Instructor: Dr. Chris Walinski
- **Dedicated Dental Hygiene** – Introduction to Laser (NSBDE Approval Course #19-016) – Instructor: Kristin Pristavec-Hunter, RDH, Jennifer Long, RDH, Maira Velasco RDH
- **Dental Laser Coaching** - A Comprehensive Dental Laser Technology Overview with Clinical Keys to Optimize Laser Utilization Safely and Effectively (NSBDE Approval

## **Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

Course #21-011) – Instructors: Nick R Clausen, MBA (instruction of didactic section only) and William P Leavitt, DDS (instruction of didactic and hands-on component)

- **Implant Direct International** – Laser Surgery: A Quantum Leap Forward (NSBDE Approval Course #14-003) – Instructors: Dr. Blair Losee & Mary Smith, RDH
- **Institute for Advanced Laser Dentistry** – Laser Education Curriculum (NSBDE Approval Course #11-053) – Instructors: Dr. Delwin McCarthy/Patrick McCormick
- **Institute for Advanced Laser Dentistry** – IALD Standard Proficiency Course for Hygienists, Dentists, and Dental Office Staff on the PerioLase MVP (NSBDE Approval Course #19-015) – Instructor: Dr. Christopher Owens *\*\*Only for Dentists/Hygienists*
- **Michael Koceja, DDS** - Incorporating the Diode Laser Into Your Practice (NSBDE Approval Course #14-021) – Instructor: Dr. Michael Koceja
- **Nevada Dental Association** - (approved 3/22/2012) Biolase University: EZLase Training Program – Instructor: Dr. William Chen
- **Nevada Dental Hygienists Association** – Laser Certification Course (NSBDE Approval Course #11-055) – Instructor: Dr. Michael Koceja
- **Northern Nevada Dental Society** - Laser Dentistry: Standard Course for Laser Proficiency & Certification (NSBDE Approval Course #14-040) – Instructor: Dr. William Leavitt
- **PDS University** - Lasers For Dentistry (NSBDE Approval Course #19-012) – Instructors: Charles Rodgers, DDS; Barbara Krueger; Jenelle J Paulo, RDH; Joy Rathnam, RDH; Jennifer Tumlinson, RDH, Summer M Lamoureaux RDH
- **Productive Laser Hygiene Services, Inc** – Standard Laser Proficiency (NSBDE Approval Course #17-025) - Instructor: Cindy Basile, RDH
- **UNLV-SODM** - (approved 8/12/2011) An Introduction to All Tissue Laser Assisted Dentistry with Erbium YAG Laser – Instructor: Dr. William Leavitt

**Laser courses offered by instructors currently certified by the Academy of Laser Dentistry (ALD) to instruct a laser course for proficiency may also be accepted. You can visit the ALD's website to access their current list of laser instructors.**

**\*\*In addition to the above listed providers, laser courses offered by instructors currently certified by the Academy of Laser Dentistry to teach laser instruction may also be accepted. You can visit their website to access their current list of laser instructors.\*\***

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**New Hampshire**

**New Hampshire Office of Professional Licensure and Certification**

**Board of Dental Examiners**

7 Eagle Square

Concord, NH 03301

(603) 271-2152

E-mail: [OPLCLicensing11@oplc.nh.gov](mailto:OPLCLicensing11@oplc.nh.gov)

URL: <https://www.oplc.nh.gov/board-dental-examiners>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The statutes and rules do not mention use of lasers.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### New Jersey

#### New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs

#### New Jersey State Board of Dentistry

P.O. Box 45005

Newark, NJ 07101

(973) 504-6405

E-mail: [Dentistry@dca.njoag.gov](mailto:Dentistry@dca.njoag.gov)

URL: <https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/den/>

Scope of Practice: Prohibitive language §13:30-1A.3 & 13:30-1A.4,

<https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/regulations/Chapter-30-New-Jersey-Board-of-Dentistry.pdf>

Summary: The administrative code includes several prohibitive clauses:

- For caries detection instruments: “Such instruments shall not include lasers that are capable of altering, cutting, burning, or damaging hard or soft tissue”
- For curing light: “Such curing light shall not include a laser capable of altering, cutting, burning, or damaging hard or soft tissue”
- For placement and removal of retraction cords and medicated pellets: “This shall not include the use of lasers for tissue retraction”

<https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/regulations/Chapter-30-New-Jersey-Board-of-Dentistry.pdf>

#### New Jersey Administrative Code

#### Title 13

#### Law and Public Safety

#### Chapter 30

#### New Jersey Board of Dentistry

9/3/24

#### **13:30-1A.3 Scope of Practice of Licensed Dental Hygienist Under Direct Supervision**

a) A licensed dental hygienist practicing under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist may:

- 1) Perform a complete prophylaxis including the removal of all hard and soft deposits from all surfaces of human natural and restored teeth to the epithelial attachments and the polishing of natural and restored teeth;
- 2) Perform root planing;
- 3) Provide prophylactic and preventive measures such as the application of fluorides and pit and fissure sealants and other recognized topical agents for the prevention of oral disease or discomfort;
- 20) Assess whether there is carious activity by the use of detecting agents and carious detection instruments. Such instruments shall not include lasers that are capable of altering, cutting, burning, or damaging hard or soft tissue;
- 22) Use a curing light for any dental procedure. Such curing light shall not include a laser capable of altering, cutting, burning, or damaging hard or soft tissue or electrosurgery for tissue retraction;
- 31) Place and remove retraction cords and medicated pellets. This shall not include electrosurgery or the use of lasers for tissue retraction;

## **Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

### **13:30-1A.4 Scope of Practice of Licensed Dental Hygienist Under General Supervision**

a) Dental office or dental clinic. A licensed dental hygienist practicing under the general supervision of a licensed dentist in a dental office or a dental clinic may:

1) Perform a complete prophylaxis including the removal of all hard and soft deposits from all surfaces of human natural and restored teeth to the epithelial attachments and the polishing of natural and restored teeth;

2) Perform root planing;

3) Provide prophylactic and preventive measures such as the application of fluorides and pit and fissure sealants and other recognized topical agents for the prevention of oral disease or discomfort;

20) Assess whether there is carious activity by the use of detecting agents and carious detection instruments. Such instruments shall not include lasers that are capable of altering, cutting, burning, or damaging hard or soft tissue;

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### New Mexico

#### New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department

#### New Mexico Board of Dental Health Care

Toney Anaya Building

2550 Cerrillos Road, Second Floor

Santa Fe, NM 87505

(505) 476-4622

Fax (505) 476-4545

E-mail: [Dental.Board@rld.nm.gov](mailto:Dental.Board@rld.nm.gov)

Help Desk: [rld.dentalhelpdesk@rld.nm.gov](mailto:rld.dentalhelpdesk@rld.nm.gov)

URL: <https://www.rld.nm.gov/boards-and-commissions/individual-boards-and-commissions/dental-health-care/>

Mailing Address:

New Mexico Board of Dental Health Care

PO Box 25101

Santa Fe, NM 87504

Scope of Practice: §16.5.29.12, <https://www.srca.nm.gov/wp-content/uploads/attachments/16.005.0029.pdf>

Supervision: Indirect

Summary: Dental hygienists may use lasers for therapeutic use including soft tissue curettage, sulcular debridement, and tissue disinfection in periodontal therapy. Requirements include using lasers approved by the FDA, successfully complete an educational program that is a minimum of 6 hours with hands-on clinical simulation training, and post certificate of successful course completion in dental facility.

<https://www.srca.nm.gov/wp-content/uploads/attachments/16.005.0029.pdf>

**State of New Mexico**  
**Board of Dental Health Care Practice**  
**Rules and Regulations**  
**Title 16 Occupational and Professional Licensing**  
**Chapter 5 Dentistry (Dentists, Dental Hygienists, etc.)**  
**Part 29 Dental Hygienists, Practice**  
**1/4/14**

#### 16.5.29.7 Definitions:

C. “Laser” means light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation used for the therapeutic treatment of the head and neck or oral cavity.

**16.5.29.12 Therapeutic Use of Lasers:** The board does not issue permits for the use of lasers by hygienists in soft tissue curettage, sulcular debridement and tissue disinfection in periodontal therapy. Due to the rising utilization of lasers by dental hygienists, the committee and board sets forth the following requirements:

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

- A. a New Mexico licensed dental hygienist may use laser devices that are approved by the U.S. food and drug administration under the indirect supervision of a New Mexico licensed dentist;
  - B. the hygienist must successfully complete an educational program [*sic*] on laser use that is a minimum of 6 hours and includes hand-on clinical simulation training; the course shall comply with current guidelines [*sic*] as outlined in 16.5.1.15 NMAC for continuing education;
  - C. a certificate of successful [*sic*] course completion from the dental laser training entity shall be posted in a conspicuous [*sic*] location within the dental facility;
  - D. all promotion or advertising of dental laser treatment shall comply with current requirements as outlined in Subsection B of 16.5.30.10.NMAC, identifying the “supervising dentist” as responsible for the provision of or the supervision of the laser procedure;
  - E. dental laser treatment shall not be designated to a dental assistant.
- [16.5.29.12 NMAC - N, 01/04/14]



**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**New York**

**New York State Education Department  
Office of the Professions  
Dentists**

(518) 474-3817, press 1, then ext. 550

Fax (518) 473-0567

E-mail: [dentbd@nysed.gov](mailto:dentbd@nysed.gov)

URL: <https://www.op.nysed.gov/dentists>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The laws and regulations do not mention use of lasers.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### North Carolina

#### North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners

2000 Perimeter Park Dr.

Suite 160

Morrisville, NC 27560

(919) 678-8223

Fax (919) 678-8472

Email: [info@ncdentalboard.org](mailto:info@ncdentalboard.org)

URL: <http://www.ncdentalboard.org>

Scope of Practice: **21 NCAC 16G .0101**, <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2021%20-%20occupational%20licensing%20boards%20and%20commissions/chapter%2016%20-%20dental%20examiners/subchapter%20g/21%20ncac%2016g%20.0101.pdf>

and **21 NCAC 16G .0103**, <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2021%20-%20occupational%20licensing%20boards%20and%20commissions/chapter%2016%20-%20dental%20examiners/subchapter%20g/21%20ncac%2016g%20.0103.pdf>

Supervision: Control and supervision of a dentist

Summary: Dental hygienists may use laser fluorescence detectors in preparation for the dentist's examination and diagnosis of cavities

Dental hygienists are prohibited from performing surgical or cutting procedures on hard or soft tissues, including laser procedures

<http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2021%20-%20occupational%20licensing%20boards%20and%20commissions/chapter%2016%20-%20dental%20examiners/subchapter%20g/21%20ncac%2016g%20.0101.pdf>

#### North Carolina Administrative Code

#### Title 21 – Occupational Licensing Boards and Commissions

#### Chapter 16 – Dental Examiners

#### Subchapter 16G – Dental Hygienists

#### Section .0100 - Functions That May Be Delegated

April 1, 2018

#### **NCAC 16G .0101 Functions That May Be Delegated**

A dental hygienist may be delegated functions to be performed under the control and supervision of a dentist who shall be responsible for any and all consequences or results arising from performance of such acts and functions. In addition to the functions set out in G.S. 90-221(a) and 21 NCAC 16H .0203, functions that may be delegated to a dental hygienist provided that the dentist first examined the patient and prescribed the procedure include:

(9) using laser fluorescence detectors in preparation for the dentist's examination and diagnosis of cavities;

History Note: Authority G.S. 90-41; 90-221; 90-223(b); 90-233; Eff. September 3, 1976; Readopted Eff. September 26, 1977; Amended Eff. April 1, 2017; August 1, 2016; April 1, 2015; August 1, 2008; August 1, 2000; May 1, 1989; October 1, 1985; March 1, 1985; Pursuant to G.S.

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018; Amended Eff. April 1, 2018.

<http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2021%20-%20occupational%20licensing%20boards%20and%20commissions/chapter%2016%20-%20dental%20examiners/subchapter%20g/21%20ncac%2016g%20.0103.pdf>

**North Carolina Administrative Code  
Title 21 – Occupational Licensing Boards and Commissions  
Chapter 16 – Dental Examiners  
Subchapter 16G – Dental Hygienists  
Section .0100 - Functions That May Be Delegated  
July 1, 2022**

**21 NCAC 16G .0103 Procedures Prohibited**

Those procedures that require the professional education and skill of a dentist and shall not be delegated to a dental hygienist include:

(2) performing surgical or cutting procedures on hard or soft tissues, including laser, air abrasion, or micro-abrasion procedures;

History Note: Authority G.S. 90-221(a); 90-223(b); Eff. September 3, 1976; Readopted Eff. September 26, 1977; Amended Eff. August 1, 2016; August 1, 2008; August 1, 2000; May 1, 1989; March 1, 1985; Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018; Amended Eff. July 1, 2022; September 1, 2020; April 1, 2018.

<https://www.ncdentalboard.org/PDF/October%202019%20Minutes.pdf>

**Minutes  
NC State Board of Dental Examiners  
Board Meeting  
Morrisville, North Carolina  
October 10-11, 2019**

VIII. New Business

E. Light Therapy [Item #6] Ms. Goode

The Board received an inquiry asking if a dental assistant is permitted to perform low-level light therapy with a laser extra-orally to the TMJ. The Board requested that staff obtain more information about the procedure before responding.

F. Laser technology [Item #7] Ms. Goode

The Board received an inquiry asking if a dental hygienist may utilize a laser for bacterial decontamination. Following a discussion, it was determined that under the current rules, laser use is not permitted by dental hygienists in North Carolina.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### North Dakota

#### North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners

PO Box 7246

Bismarck, ND 58507

(701) 258-8600

E-mail: [info@niddentalboard.org](mailto:info@niddentalboard.org)

URL: <https://www.niddentalboard.org>

Scope of Practice: **Board Position**, <https://www.niddentalboard.org/laws-and-rules/index.asp#laser>

Supervision: General

Summary: It is the position of the Board that any services provided by a licensee, regardless of the device used, must be within the scope of practice for each licensee. Whenever a new treatment modality is brought forward, it is the Board's policy that the dentist must have equal or greater proficiency and training in the technology. Neither the particular technology utilized nor amendments to scope of practice alter the fact that all licensees are responsible for their individual actions with the dentist ultimately responsible for all care provided in each dental office.

<https://www.niddentalboard.org/practitioners/hygienist/index.asp#Lasers>

**North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners**

**Practitioners**

**Hygienist**

**Hygienist Overview**

**Laser Technology**

#### **Lasers**

The use of lasers continues to be a popular treatment modality in dentistry. It is the position of the Board that any services provided by a licensee, regardless of the device used, must be within the scope of practice for each licensee. Whenever a new treatment modality is brought forward, it is the Board's policy that the dentist must have equal or greater proficiency and training in the technology. Neither the particular technology utilized nor amendments to scope of practice alter the fact that all licensees are responsible for their individual actions with the dentist ultimately responsible for all care provided in each dental office. Contact the Board office if you have questions about the regulations governing the practice of dental hygiene in North Dakota. A permit is not required.

<https://www.niddentalboard.org/laws-and-rules/index.asp#laser>

**North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners**

**Laws and Rules**

**Substantiated Policies**

#### **Laser Technology**

It is the position of the Board that any services provided by a licensee, regardless of the device used, must be within the scope of practice for each licensee. Whenever a new treatment modality

## **Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

is brought forward, it is the Board's policy that the dentist must have equal or greater proficiency and training in the technology. Licensees utilizing the new technology must maintain documentation of the satisfactory completion of the formal continuing education or training. The particular technology utilized does not alter the fact that the dentist is ultimately responsible.

<https://ndlegis.gov/information/acdata/pdf/20-04-01.pdf>

### **North Dakota Administrative Code**

#### **Article 20-04**

#### **Dental Hygienists**

**October 1, 2024**

#### **Chapter 20-04-01-01. Duties**

6. A dental hygienist may perform the following services under the general supervision of a dentist:

a. Complete prophylaxis to include removal of accumulated matter, deposits, accretions, or stains from the natural and restored surfaces of exposed teeth. The dental hygienist also may perform root planing and soft tissue curettage upon direct order of the dentist.

### **North Dakota Administrative Code**

#### **Article 20-04**

#### **Dental Hygienists**

**July 1, 2022**

#### **20-04-01-02. Prohibited services.**

A dental hygienist may not perform the following services:

1. Diagnosis and treatment planning.
2. Surgery on hard or soft tissue.

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Northern Mariana Islands**

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

**CNMI Board of Professional Licensing / Health Care Professions Licensing Board**

Physical Address:

Board of Professional Licensing  
Health Care Professions Licensing Board  
Building #1242, Pohnpei Court  
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Mailing Address:

Board of Professional Licensing/  
Health Care Professions Licensing Board  
P.O. Box 502078  
Saipan, MP 96950

(670) 644-4808/4809

Fax: (670) 664-4814

E-mail: [info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp](mailto:info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp)

URL: <https://www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp/health-care-professions-licensing-board/>

Scope of Practice: § 185-10-2635, <https://www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Part-2600-Dentists-Dental-Assistants-Dental-Hygienists-and-Dental-Therapists.pdf>

Supervision: Supervision of a dentist

Summary: Dental hygienists may perform root planing and scaling and periodontal soft tissue curettage with the use of soft tissue lasers

<https://www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Part-2600-Dentists-Dental-Assistants-Dental-Hygienists-and-Dental-Therapists.pdf>

**Title 185: Commonwealth Health Care Professions  
Licensing Board**

**Subchapter 185-10**

**Commonwealth Health Care Professions  
Licensing Board Regulations**

**Part 2600 Dentists, Dental Assistants, Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists**

**October 28, 2020**

**§ 185-10-2635 Dental Assistant – Scope of Practice**

(a) A CNMI-licensed **dental hygienist may:**

(1) Educate, demonstrate, and instruct the public on achieving better oral and systemic health;

(2) Examine visually and by the use of instruments, such as an explorer and a periodontal probe or other means, the teeth and the tissues surrounding the teeth;

(3) Examine visually and by palpation the head and neck region for any lesions or abnormalities;

## **Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

(4) Remove calcareous deposits, accretions, and stains from the surfaces of the teeth with the use of hand instruments or ultrasonic instrumentation;

(5) Perform root planing and scaling and periodontal soft tissue curettage with the use of hand instruments, ultrasonic instruments, or soft tissue lasers;

(b) A CNMI-licensed dental hygienist may not:

(1) Deliver dental hygiene services independent of a CNMI-licensed dentist, except for educational and preventative oral health services provided by dental hygienists employed by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation which are rendered pursuant to the Public Health's Oral Health Program for children, within the scope of these regulations;

(2) Diagnose, treatment-plan, or write prescriptions for medications, except under the direct order and supervision of a CNMI-licensed dentist;

(3) Cut or incise hard or soft tissues; and

(4) Perform other procedures that require the professional competence and skill of a dentist.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Ohio

#### Ohio State Dental Board

77 S High Street

17<sup>th</sup> Floor

Columbus, OH 43215-6135

(614) 466-2580

Fax (614) 752-8995

Contact form: <https://dental.ohio.gov/help-center/contact-us>

E-mail: [dental.board@den.ohi.gov](mailto:dental.board@den.ohi.gov)

URL: <https://dental.ohio.gov>

Scope of Practice: **4715-11-06**, [https://codes.ohio.gov/assets/laws/administrative-code/authenticated/4715/0/11/4715-11-06\\_20160912.pdf](https://codes.ohio.gov/assets/laws/administrative-code/authenticated/4715/0/11/4715-11-06_20160912.pdf)

Summary: Dental hygienists are not allowed to use lasers except for caries susceptibility testing devices.

[https://codes.ohio.gov/assets/laws/administrative-code/authenticated/4715/0/3/4715-3-01\\_20240401.pdf](https://codes.ohio.gov/assets/laws/administrative-code/authenticated/4715/0/3/4715-3-01_20240401.pdf)

**Ohio Administrative Code**

**Chapter 4715-3**

**Rule 4715-3-01 Definitions**

**April 1, 2024**

Definition of terms are listed by category.

(Q) Tasks and/or procedures categories

(4) “Surgery” means any procedure that involves cutting or otherwise infiltrating hard or soft human tissue, including but not limited to gingivae, bone and tooth structure, by mechanical means, including, laser surgery, therapeutic ionizing radiation, and therapeutic ultrasound.

[https://codes.ohio.gov/assets/laws/administrative-code/authenticated/4715/0/9/4715-9-01\\_20160912.pdf](https://codes.ohio.gov/assets/laws/administrative-code/authenticated/4715/0/9/4715-9-01_20160912.pdf)

**Ohio Administrative Code**

**Chapter 4715**

**Dental Hygienists**

**Rule 4715-9-01 Permissible practices of a dental hygienist.**

**September 12, 2016**

Rule 4715-9-01 | Permissible practices of a dental hygienist.

(B) The dental hygienist may perform the following tasks and/or procedures which may be delegated only to a licensed dental hygienist under the supervision of a licensed dentist:

- (1) Removal of calcareous deposits or accretions from the crowns and roots of teeth.
- (2) Periodontal scaling, root planning, and soft tissue curettage.
- (3) Sulcular placement of prescribed materials.
- (4) Bleaching of teeth (excluding procedures that utilize light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation (LASER) technologies).



**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

[https://codes.ohio.gov/assets/laws/administrative-code/authenticated/4715/0/11/4715-11-06\\_20160912.pdf](https://codes.ohio.gov/assets/laws/administrative-code/authenticated/4715/0/11/4715-11-06_20160912.pdf)

**Ohio Administrative Code  
Chapter 4715-11 Qualified Personnel  
Rule 4715-11-06 Non.-delegable dental tasks and/or procedures  
September 12, 2016**

The following dental tasks and/or procedures shall **not be delegated** by any licensed dentists:

(K) Procedures utilizing light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation (**LASER**) technologies (**excluding caries susceptibility testing devices**).

<https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/chapter-4715-22>

**Ohio Administrative Code  
Chapter 4715-22 Volunteer's Certificate  
Rule 4715-22-01 Volunteer's certificate issued to retired dentist or dental hygienist to  
provide free services to indigent and uninsured persons; immunity.  
November 25, 2019**

(A) Terms

(4) As used in this rule, "operation" means any procedure that involves cutting or otherwise infiltrating human tissue by mechanical means, including surgery, **laser surgery**, ionizing radiation, therapeutic ultrasound, or the removal of intraocular foreign bodies. "Operation" does not include the administration of medication by injection, unless the injection is administered in conjunction with a procedure infiltrating human tissue by mechanical means other than the administration of medicine by injection. "Operation" does not include routine dental restorative procedures, the scaling of teeth, or extractions of teeth that are not impacted.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Oklahoma

#### Oklahoma State Board of Dentistry

2920 N Lincoln Blvd.

Suite B

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

(405) 522-4844

Fax (405) 522-4614

URL: <https://www.ok.gov/dentistry/>

Scope of Practice: **195:15-1-6.1,**

<https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/dentistry/documents/statutes-rules/9.11.23%20-%20TitleNumber195.pdf>,

and **Section 328.21,** <https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/dentistry/documents/statutes-rules/Oklahoma%20Statutes%2011-1-2024.pdf>

Supervision: Direct/Indirect

Summary: Dental hygienists may apply for an Advanced Procedure permit for the therapeutic use of lasers under the direct/indirect supervision of a dentist. A hygienist with an advanced procedure permit to use a laser may be used, but limited to soft tissue decontamination, sulcular bacterial reduction, tissue disinfection. A laser may not be used for the intentional cutting of hard or soft tissue.

<https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/dentistry/documents/statutes-rules/9.11.23%20-%20TitleNumber195.pdf>

#### **Title 195. Board of Dentistry**

#### **Chapter 15. Duties for Dental Assistants and the Rules Regulating the Practice of Dental Hygiene 9-11-23**

#### **195:15-1-6.1. Advanced procedures for dental hygienists**

(a) It is the determination of the Board that certain procedures may be performed by a dental hygienist who has satisfactorily completed a course of study regarding the performance of such procedures. Pursuant to 59 O.S., Section 328.34, the Board hereby establishes six (6) advanced procedures for dental hygienists with, requirements, and course guidelines as follows:

(b) Each training program for an advanced procedure for hygienists must meet the same requirements as listed in 195:15-1-4(a) through (g).

(c) An application by a dental hygienist for authorization to perform an advanced procedure shall be made on a form prescribed by the Board.

(d) Advanced procedures permitted for dental hygienists who graduate from accredited dental hygiene programs in Oklahoma which provide Board approved instruction, will automatically be authorized after licensure.

#### **(4) Therapeutic use of lasers.**

(A) A hygienist may apply for an Advanced Procedure permit for the therapeutic use of **lasers under the direct/indirect supervision of a dentist.**

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

(B) Definition: A hygienist with an advanced procedure permit to use a laser may be used, but limited to soft tissue decontamination, sulcular bacterial reduction, tissue disinfection.

(C) Requirements:

(i) The hygienist must successfully complete an educational program as approved by the Board on laser use that is a minimum of 8 hours and includes both didactic and live, in-person clinical simulation training;

(ii) A certificate of successful course completion from the dental laser training entity shall be submitted to the Board of Dentistry.

(I) A hygienist may use the laser within the scope of hygiene practice;

(II) A laser may not be used for the intentional cutting of hard or soft tissue;

(III) All lasers must be used in accordance with accepted safety guidelines and approved by the United States Federal Drug Administration for use in dentistry.

(IV) When utilizing a laser pursuant to this Rule, at a minimum, the type of laser, settings used and details of procedures performed, must be documented in the patient's record.

<https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/dentistry/documents/statutes-rules/Oklahoma%20Statutes%2011-1-2024.pdf>

### Oklahoma Statutes Title 59 Professions and Occupations Chapter 7 Dentistry November 1, 2024

#### Section 328.21 - Registration and Display of Licenses and Certificates

I. 1. There shall be seven types of advanced procedures available for dental hygienists upon completion of a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) approved program, course, or certification program that has been approved by the Board:

d. therapeutic use of lasers,

2. A dental hygienist holding an advanced procedure permit or credential in any other state for two (2) years shall be eligible for the advanced procedure permit by credentials; provided, that application for the advanced procedure permit by credentials for administration of local anesthesia shall additionally require proof of passage of such advanced procedure in a CDCA-WREB-CITA exam.

3. For all advanced procedures other than administration of local anesthesia, a dental hygienist may apply by filling out an application with required documentation of training as required by state law and rules of the Board. A dental hygienist licensed by the Board prior to January 30, 2024, shall be eligible for the advanced procedure of therapeutic use of lasers upon submission of an affidavit attesting to two (2) years of practice using lasers.

#### Section 328.34 - Dental Hygienists - Scope of Practice

B. 3. Except as provided in subsections C and D of this section, the procedures specified in paragraph 1 of this subsection may be performed by a dental hygienist only on a patient of record

## **Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**and only under the supervision of a dentist.** The advanced procedures of administration of nitrous oxide, administration of local anesthesia, neuromodulator administration, **therapeutic use of lasers**, and phlebotomy and venipuncture shall be performed only under the direct or indirect supervision of a dentist. The level of supervision, whether direct, indirect, or general, for the advanced procedure of elder care and public health pursuant to Section 7 of this act shall be at the discretion of the supervisory dentist. Authorization for general supervision shall be limited to a maximum of thirteen (13) months following an examination by the supervisory dentist of a patient of record.

E. The Board is authorized to prescribe, by rule, the **educational requirements** for advanced procedures that may be performed by a dental hygienist upon receipt of the advanced procedures designated on his or her license. The advanced procedures shall include the administration of local anesthesia, the administration of nitrous oxide analgesia, neuromodulator administration, **therapeutic use of lasers**, phlebotomy and venipuncture, and elder care and public health pursuant to Section 7 of this act.

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Oregon**

**Oregon Board of Dentistry**

1500 SW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue

Suite 770

Portland, OR 97201

(971) 673-3200

Fax (971) 673-3202

E-mail: [Information@obd.oregon.gov](mailto:Information@obd.oregon.gov)

URL: <https://www.oregon.gov/dentistry/Pages/index.aspx>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The administrative rules do not mention use of lasers.

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Pennsylvania**

**Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry**

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 2649

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Physical Address:

2525 N 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Harrisburg, PA 17110

(833) DOS-BPOA

(833) 367-2762

e-Mail: [St-DENTISTRY@pa.gov](mailto:St-DENTISTRY@pa.gov)

URL: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dos/department-and-offices/bpoa/boards-commissions/dentistry.html>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The laws and regulations do not mention use of lasers by dental hygienists.

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Puerto Rico**

**Profesionales y Sistema de Salud**

**Junta Examinadora Dental**

Professionals and the Health System

Dental Examination Board

Departamento de Salud PR

Centro Médico Norte

Calle Periferial Interior

Bo. Monacillos Río Piedras, PR

(787) 765-2929

E-mail: [contactus@salud.pr.gov](mailto:contactus@salud.pr.gov)

URL: <https://www.salud.pr.gov/>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The laws and regulations do not mention use of lasers.

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Rhode Island**

**State of Rhode Island  
Department of Health  
Board of Dentistry  
Rhode Island Board of Examiners in Dentistry**

3 Capitol Hill

Room 104

Providence, RI 02908-5097

(401) 222-2828

(401) 222-5960

Fax (401) 222-1272

URL: <https://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=251>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The laws and regulations do not mention use of lasers.



## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### South Carolina

#### South Carolina Board of Dentistry

110 Centerview Dr  
Columbia, SC 29210  
(803) 896-4599  
Fax (803) 896-4719  
E-mail: [Contact.Dentistry@llr.sc.gov](mailto:Contact.Dentistry@llr.sc.gov)  
URL: <https://llr.sc.gov/bod/>

Scope of Practice: §39-9, <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/coderegs/Chapter%2039.pdf>  
and Board Policy, <https://llr.sc.gov/bod/PDF/Policy/LaserPolicy.pdf>

Supervision: Direct

Summary: A dental hygienist may only use a laser under the direct supervision of a dentist, and the hygienist's use of the laser must be limited to pocket disinfection at settings that preclude hard and soft tissue removal, except for incidental gingival curettage. Dental hygienists are not authorized to use lasers in performing bleaching of teeth procedures.

Prior to utilizing a laser, a dental hygienist must first successfully complete training that covers, at a minimum, laser physics, safety, and appropriate use of the laser. A licensee must also complete an interactive training that addresses operation of the specific laser(s) utilized in the practice. The initial training must include a minimum of 12 hours of instruction.

<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/coderegs/Chapter%2039.pdf>

#### South Carolina Code of Regulations

#### Chapter 39

#### Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation – State Board of Dentistry

May 28, 2021

#### **39-9. Use of Lasers in a Dental Setting.**

A. The requirements contained herein do not apply to the use of non-adjustable laser units used for the purposes of diagnosis and curing.

B. Only a dentist may employ a laser capable of the removal of hard and/or soft tissue in the treatment of a dental patient.

C. A dental hygienist may only use a laser under the direct supervision of a dentist, and the hygienist's use of the laser must be limited to pocket disinfection at settings that preclude hard and soft tissue removal, except for incidental gingival curettage.

D. Use of a laser:

(1) Prior to utilizing a laser, a licensee must first successfully complete training that covers, at a minimum, laser physics, safety, and appropriate use of the laser. A licensee must also complete an interactive training that addresses operation of the specific laser(s) utilized in the practice. The initial training must include a minimum of 12 hours of instruction and must be obtained through a course provided or recognized by any of the following organizations (or a successor organization):

(a) The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA);

## **Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

(b) The American Dental Association (ADA) Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP);

(c) The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) Program Approval for Continuing Education (PACE); or

(d) The American Medical Association (AMA).

A dental licensee who has more than three (3) years of experience using lasers is exempt from the training requirements set forth in Reg. 39-9 provided that the three (3) years of experience is obtained prior to January 1, 2021.

(2) A licensee utilizing a laser, other than what is described in Section A, must maintain evidence of training as required herein and submit such evidence to the Board upon request.

(3) All lasers must be used in accordance with accepted safety guidelines

E. When utilizing a laser pursuant to this Section, the licensee must document the following information, at a minimum, in the patient's record:

(1) the type of laser utilized, to include the wavelength of the laser;

(2) the settings used, such as pulse or continuous wave, and the power setting;

(3) local anesthesia used, if any; and

(4) the procedure attempted/performed, including details as to whether hard or soft tissue was removed.

HISTORY: Added by SCSR 45-5 Doc. No. 4985, eff May 28, 2021

<https://lir.sc.gov/bod/PDF/Policy/LaserPolicy.pdf>

**South Carolina Board of Dentistry**

**Policy**

**Laser**

**June 24, 2001**

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 40-15-80 and Regs. 39-12; 39-13 and 39-14

**Dental Hygienists and Dental Assistants are not authorized to use lasers in performing bleaching of teeth procedures;** they may, however, perform the isolation and clean-up procedures.

Approved by the Board: June 24, 2001

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**South Dakota**

**South Dakota State Board of Dentistry**

PO Box 1079

1351 North Harrison Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501-1079

(605) 224-1282

Fax (888) 435-3032

E-mail: <https://www.sdboardofdentistry.org/contact/>

URL: <https://www.sdboardofdentistry.org>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The statutes and administrative rules do not mention use of lasers.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Tennessee

#### Tennessee Department of Health

#### Board of Dentistry

665 Mainstream Drive

Nashville, TN 37243

615-532-5073 local or 1-800-778-4123 nationwide

E-mail: [dental.health@tn.gov](mailto:dental.health@tn.gov)

URL: <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/health/health-program-areas/health-professional-boards/dentistry-board.html>

**Scope of Practice:** §0460-03-.09, <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/0460/0460-03.20210718.pdf>

and **Board Policy Statement,**

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/DEN\\_Policy-Lasers.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/DEN_Policy-Lasers.pdf)

Supervision: Supervision of a dentist

Summary: Dental hygienists may use lasers for examination and/or for periodontal treatment. Additionally, dental hygienists may use lasers for debridement and bacterial reduction after completion of a didactic and hands-on training course.

<https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/0460/0460-03.20210718.pdf>

#### Rules of the Tennessee Board of Dentistry

#### Chapter 0460-03

#### Rules Governing the Practice of Dental Hygienists

January 20, 2011

**0460-03-.09 Scope of Practice.** Licensed Dental Hygienists may only practice under direct and/or general supervision in the employment of a licensed dentist consistent with the provisions of T.C.A. Title 63, Chapter 5.

(1) **Delegable or Assignable Procedures** - In addition to those duties of the licensed dental hygienist which are commonly recognizable by the dental profession for safe performance, pursuant to T.C.A. § 63-5-108 a licensed dental hygienist may perform the following duties which are assigned or delegated to the licensed dental hygienist by the employer dentist:

(a) The removal of all hard and soft deposits and stains from the human teeth to the depth of the gingival sulcus, polishing natural and restored surfaces of teeth, performing clinical examination of teeth and surrounding tissues for diagnosis by the dentist, and performing other such procedures as may be delegated by the dentist consistent with the provisions of T.C.A. Chapter 5, Title 63.

(b) Prophylaxis.

(ww) The use of lasers for examination and/or for periodontal treatment under the supervision of a Tennessee licensed dentist.

(7) **Prohibited Procedures** - In addition to the duties defined as the practice of dentistry by T.C.A. § 63-5-108, licensed dental hygienists are not permitted to perform the following:

(a) Comprehensive examination, diagnosis and treatment planning;

## **Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

(b) **Surgical or cutting procedures on hard or soft tissue, including laser**, air abrasion or micro-abrasion procedures, **except curettage or root planing**;

***Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-5-202, 4-5-204, 63-5-105, 63-5-107, 63-5-108, 63-5-115, 63-5-116, and 63-5-124. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed December 11, 1991; effective January 25, 1992. Amendment filed May 15, 1996; effective September 27, 1996. Amendment filed September 17, 2003; effective December 1, 2003. Amendments filed August 3, 2005; effective October 17, 2005. Amendments filed October 12, 2007; effective December 26, 2007. Amendment filed September 25, 2008; effective December 9, 2008. Amendments filed October 22, 2010; effective January 20, 2011.*

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/DEN\\_Policy-Lasers.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/DEN_Policy-Lasers.pdf)

### **Tennessee Board of Dentistry Policy Statement on Use of Lasers for Debridement and Bacterial Reduction by Dental Hygienists June 20, 2014**

The position of the Tennessee Board of Dentistry is that the **use of lasers for debridement and bacterial reduction by licensed dental hygienists is permitted after successful completion of a course which should include didactic and hands-on training.**

Adopted by the Board of Dentistry on September 9, 2011.

Amended by the Board of Dentistry on June 20, 2014.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Texas

#### **Texas State Board of Dental Examiners**

1801 Congress Ave., Suite 8.600

Austin, TX 78701

(737) 363-2320

(512) 463-6400

Fax (512) 649-1658

E-mail: [licensinghelp@tsbde.texas.gov](mailto:licensinghelp@tsbde.texas.gov)

URL: <http://tsbde.texas.gov>

Scope of Practice: **§115.2,**

[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p\\_dir=&p\\_rloc=&p\\_tloc=&p\\_ploc=&pg=1&p\\_tac=&ti=22&pt=5&ch=115&rl=2](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=5&ch=115&rl=2)

Supervision: Direct

Summary: Dental hygienists may use lasers as long as the procedure is not irreversible or involves intentional cutting of soft or hard tissue. Prior to using lasers, dental hygienists must complete at least 12 hours of in-person continuing education in laser utilization specific to the procedures to be performed by the dental hygienist using the laser. Three of the twelve required hours must include clinical simulation laser training similar to the procedures to be performed by the dental hygienist. The continuing education must be provided by an educational course provider recognized by the Board. A dentist who supervises a dental hygienist in the use of lasers must have laser education and training sufficient to adequately supervise the dental hygienist.

[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p\\_dir=&p\\_rloc=&p\\_tloc=&p\\_ploc=&pg=1&p\\_tac=&ti=22&pt=5&ch=115&rl=2](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=5&ch=115&rl=2)

#### **Texas Administrative Code**

#### **Title 22 Examining Boards**

#### **Part 5 State Board of Dental Examiners**

#### **Chapter 115 Extension of Duties of Auxiliary Personnel – Dental Hygiene**

**March 16, 2023**

#### **Rule §115.2 Permitted Duties**

(a) In addition to the duties that a dentist may delegate pursuant to the Dental Practice Act and Board Rules, a Texas-licensed dental hygienist (hygienist) may perform the following services and procedures in the dental office of his/her supervising Texas-licensed dentist (dentist) or dentists who are legally engaged in the practice of dentistry in this state or under the supervision of a supervising dentist in an alternate setting:

- (1) remove accumulated matter, tartar, deposits, accretions, or stains, other than mottled enamel stains, from the natural and restored surface of exposed human teeth and restorations in the human mouth;
- (2) smooth roughened root surfaces;
- (3) polish exposed human teeth, restorations in the human mouth, or roughened root surfaces;
- (4) topically apply drugs to the surface tissues of the human mouth or the exposed surface of human teeth;

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

- (5) make dental x-rays;
- (6) apply pit and fissure sealants; and

(7) monitor patients receiving nitrous oxide/oxygen inhalation conscious sedation only after obtaining approval from the board, and only under the direct supervision of a Texas licensed dentist. The board will issue a nitrous oxide monitoring endorsement after a hygienist provides proof of successful completion of a board approved course, that includes examination, on the monitoring of the administration of nitrous oxide.

(b) Dental hygienists may use lasers in the practice of dental hygiene under the direct supervision of a dentist, so long as they do not perform any procedure that is irreversible or involves the intentional cutting of soft or hard tissue.

(1) Prior to using a laser for non-diagnostic purposes, dental hygienists must complete no less than twelve hours of in-person continuing education in laser utilization specific to the procedures to be performed by the dental hygienist using the laser. Three of the twelve required hours must include clinical simulation laser training similar to the procedures to be performed by the dental hygienist. The continuing education must be provided by an educational course provider recognized by the Board. Dental hygienists must maintain documentation of the satisfactory completion of the required continuing education courses.

(2) Use of lasers by dental hygienists must be in accordance with the minimum standard of care and limited to the dental hygienist's scope of practice.

(3) A dentist who supervises a dental hygienist in the use of lasers must have laser education and training sufficient to adequately supervise the dental hygienist, including but not limited to meeting the continuing education requirements required of dental hygienists in subsection (b)(1) of this section. Pursuant to §258.003 of the Dental Practice Act, the delegating dentist is responsible for all dental acts delegated to the dental hygienist, including the use of lasers.

(4) The dental hygienist must comply with the Dental Practice Act and Board Rules in the use of lasers. The dental hygienist may be subject to disciplinary action for any act that violates the Dental Practice Act or Board Rules.

**Source Note:** The provisions of this §115.2 adopted to be effective January 1, 1976; amended to be effective April 18, 1979, 4 TexReg 1209; amended to be effective October 10, 1979, 4 TexReg 3502; amended to be effective October 11, 1979, 4 TexReg 3502; amended to be effective June 12, 1980, 5 TexReg 2187; amended to be effective April 19, 1984, 9 TexReg 1947; amended to be effective September 1, 1986, 11 TexReg 3349; amended to be effective February 1, 1988, 12 TexReg 4473; amended to be effective January 5, 1990, 14 TexReg 6756; amended to be effective February 21, 1990, 15 TexReg 707; amended to be effective July 17, 1990, 15 TexReg 3804; amended to be effective February 20, 1992, 17 TexReg 1095; amended to be effective March 18, 1997, 22 TexReg 2495; amended to be effective July 10, 2001, 26 TexReg 5004; amended to be effective February 25, 2007, 32 TexReg 627; amended to be effective June 23, 2015, 40 TexReg 3818; amended to be effective March 16, 2023, 48 TexReg 1449

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Utah

**Utah Department of Commerce  
Division of Professional Licensing  
Dentistry**

(801) 530-6628

Toll-Free in Utah: (866) 275-3675

E-mail: [b9@utah.gov](mailto:b9@utah.gov)

URL: <https://dopl.utah.gov/dental/index.html>

Scope of Practice: **R156-69-102**, <https://adminrules.utah.gov/public/rule/R156-69/Current%20Rules>

Supervision: General

Summary: Dental hygienists may perform laser bleaching and laser periodontal debridement.

<https://adminrules.utah.gov/public/rule/R156-69/Current%20Rules>

**R156. Commerce, Professional Licensing.  
R156-69. Dentist and Dental Hygienist Practice Act Rule.  
December 11, 2023**

#### **R156-69-102. Definitions.**

Terms used in this rule are defined in Title 58, Chapter 1, Division of Professional Licensing Act, and Title 58, Chapter 69, Dentist and Dental Hygienist Practice Act. In addition:

- (40) “Practice of dental hygiene” under Subsection 58-69-102(7)(a)(ix) includes performing:
- (a) laser bleaching; and
  - (b) laser periodontal debridement.

<https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title58/Chapter69/58-69-S102.html>

**Utah Code  
Title 58. Occupations and Professions  
Chapter 69. Dentist and Dental Hygienist Practice Act  
Part 1. General Provisions  
May 12, 2020**

#### **58-69-102. Definitions.**

(7) “Practice of dental hygiene” means, regarding humans:

(a) under the general supervision of a dentist, or under a written agreement with a dentist licensed under this chapter, as provided in Section 58-69-801, to:

- (i) perform preliminary clinical examination of human teeth and gums;
- (ii) make preliminary instrumental examination of patients' teeth;
- (iii) expose dental radiographs;
- (iv) assess dental hygiene status and collaborate with the supervising dentist regarding a dental hygiene treatment plan for a patient;
- (v) remove deposits, accumulations, calculus, and concretions from the surfaces of human teeth;
- (vi) remove toxins and debris from subgingival surfaces;



**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

- (vii) provide dental hygiene care in accordance with a dentist's treatment plan for a patient;
- (viii) take impressions of teeth or jaws except for impressions or registrations to supply artificial teeth as substitutes for natural teeth; or
- (ix) engage in other practices of dental hygiene as defined by division rule;

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Vermont

Vermont Secretary of State  
Office of Professional Regulation  
Dental Examiners

89 Main Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
(802) 828-1505

E-mail: <https://sos.vermont.gov/opr/about-opr/contact-us/>

URL: <https://sos.vermont.gov/dental-examiners/>

Scope of Practice: Silent; **Proposed Rule 6-4,**

[https://outside.vermont.gov/dept/sos/office\\_professional\\_regulation/professions/dental\\_examiner/dental\\_examiner\\_proposed\\_administrative\\_rules.pdf](https://outside.vermont.gov/dept/sos/office_professional_regulation/professions/dental_examiner/dental_examiner_proposed_administrative_rules.pdf)

Supervision: Determined by practice agreement

Summary: The statutes and administrative rules do not mention use of lasers. Rules are pending that specifically mention use of periodontal lasers for pocket debridement within the dental hygiene scope of practice.

[https://outside.vermont.gov/dept/sos/office\\_professional\\_regulation/professions/dental\\_examiner/dental\\_examiner\\_proposed\\_administrative\\_rules.pdf](https://outside.vermont.gov/dept/sos/office_professional_regulation/professions/dental_examiner/dental_examiner_proposed_administrative_rules.pdf)

**Draft**

**Dental Examiners Proposed Administrative Rules**

**Part 6: Dental Hygienists**

**Draft Updated September 18, 2024**

**6-4 Scope of Practice.** The scope of practice of a **dental hygienist** is established by agreement with the supervising dentist or dental therapist and may include oral prophylaxis; oral debridement; periodontal descriptions and charting, including periodontal probing and placement of supra- and subgingival chemotherapeutic agents; exposure of radiographs; application of sealants; application of silver diamine fluoride; oral health screening and pre-diagnostic examination; **use of periodontal lasers for purposes of pocket debridement**; acquisition of impressions or images; temporary replacement of crowns; and such other dental practices as are generally accepted as appropriate for delegation based on the training, education, and experience of the hygienist.

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Virgin Islands**

**Office of Professional Licensure and Health Planning**

**Virgin Islands Board of Dental Examiners**

PO Box 222995

Christiansted, VI 00822-2995

(340) 718-1311

E-mail: [boardofdentalexaminers@doh.vi.gov](mailto:boardofdentalexaminers@doh.vi.gov)

URL: <https://doh.vi.gov/board-of-dental-examiners/>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The statutes do not mention use of lasers.

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Virginia**

**Virginia Department of Health Professions**

**Virginia Board of Dentistry**

Perimeter Center

9960 Maryland Drive

Suite 300

Henrico, VA 23233-1463

(804) 367-4538

Fax: (804) 698-4266

E-mail: [denbd@dhp.virginia.gov](mailto:denbd@dhp.virginia.gov)

URL: <https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/Boards/Dentistry>

Scope of Practice: **18VAC60-25-40,**

<https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/media/dhpweb/docs/dentistry/leg/DentalHygiene.pdf>

Supervision: Indirect

Summary: Dental hygienists may use nonsurgical lasers for scaling, root planing, or gingival curettage of natural and restored teeth.

<https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/media/dhpweb/docs/dentistry/leg/DentalHygiene.pdf>

**Commonwealth of Virginia  
Regulations Governing the Practice of Dental Hygiene  
Virginia Board of Dentistry  
Title of Regulations: 18 VAC 60-25-10 et seq.  
Effective Date: October 24, 2024**

**Part I. General Provisions**

**18VAC60-25-10. Definitions**

B. The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“**Nonsurgical laser**” means a laser that is not capable of cutting or removing hard tissue, soft tissue, or tooth structure.

**Part II. Practice of Dental Hygiene**

**18VAC60-25-40. Scope of Practice**

B. The following duties shall only be delegated to dental hygienists under direction and may only be performed under indirect supervision:

1. Scaling, root planing, or gingival curettage of natural and restored teeth using hand instruments, slow-speed rotary instruments, ultrasonic devices, and nonsurgical lasers with any sedation or anesthesia administered.

C. The following duties shall only be delegated to dental hygienists and may be performed under indirect supervision or may be delegated by written order in accordance with § 54.1-2722 D of the Code of Virginia to be performed under general supervision:

1. Scaling, root planing, or gingival curettage of natural and restored teeth using hand instruments, slow-speed rotary instruments, ultrasonic devices, and nonsurgical lasers with or without topical oral anesthetics.

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Washington**

**Washington State Department of Health**

**Dental Quality Assurance Commission**

PO Box 47852

Olympia, WA 98504-7852

(360) 236-4700

URL:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/Dentist>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The administrative code does not mention use of lasers.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### West Virginia

#### West Virginia Board of Dentistry

1319 Robert C. Byrd Drive

PO Box 1447

Crab Orchard, WV 25827

(877) 914-8266

Fax: (304) 253-9454

E-mail: [wvbde@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:wvbde@suddenlinkmail.com)

URL: <http://www.wvdentalboard.org>

Scope of Practice: **Position Statement Use of Lasers,**

[https://wvbody7prod.glsuite.us/GLSuiteWeb/Clients/WVBOD/StaticFiles/pdf/laserstatementame  
nded72022.pdf](https://wvbody7prod.glsuite.us/GLSuiteWeb/Clients/WVBOD/StaticFiles/pdf/laserstatementame<br/>nded72022.pdf)

and **Course Guidelines,**

[https://wvbody7prod.glsuite.us/GLSuiteWeb/Clients/WVBOD/StaticFiles/pdf/Laser%20Guidelin  
es%2072023.pdf](https://wvbody7prod.glsuite.us/GLSuiteWeb/Clients/WVBOD/StaticFiles/pdf/Laser%20Guidelin<br/>es%2072023.pdf)

and **§5-13-5,**

<https://wvbody7prod.glsuite.us/GLSuiteWeb/Clients/WVBOD/StaticFiles/pdf/Laws/5CSR13.pdf>

Supervision: Direct

Summary: The Board regards the use of any laser which can cut tissue to be practicing dentistry, and therefore limits its use to dentists and hygienists who hold a certificate to perform non-surgical periodontal therapy. This includes the so-called “low power” lasers used for periodontal treatments, such as pocket debridement, scaling, polishing, planing, and the removal of calculus deposits. The Board will allow the use of lasers that are used as an alternative to a traditional curing light to be used by a dental hygienist or dental assistant for the sole purpose of curing resin restorations. In addition, the Board will also allow the use of the laser as a diagnostic aid by a dental hygienist or dental assistant for interpretation by the dentist.

Expanded duties of dental hygienists include use of a laser, provided the wavelength is limited to no higher than 1064 nanometers, for laser bacterial reduction, laser assisted periodontal therapy, other non-surgical periodontal therapeutic treatments, photobiomodulation (adjunctive low level laser therapy) and treatment of herpetic lesions and aphthous ulcers after successful completion of a board-approved course and under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.

Course Guidelines for non-surgical laser therapy for hygienists include Board approval prior to the date of the scheduled course, 5.5 hours of didactic instruction, successful completion of a written examination, and clinical competency as assessed by demonstrating proficiencies in approved procedures in 2.5 hours of hands-on training.

[https://wvbody7prod.glsuite.us/GLSuiteWeb/Clients/WVBOD/StaticFiles/pdf/laserstatementame  
nded72022.pdf](https://wvbody7prod.glsuite.us/GLSuiteWeb/Clients/WVBOD/StaticFiles/pdf/laserstatementame<br/>nded72022.pdf)

#### West Virginia Board of Dentistry Guidelines, Position Statement, & Resolutions Position Statements Use of Lasers

## **Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

### **WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS POSITION STATEMENT CONCERNING THE USE OF LASERS**

**Promulgated March 13, 2004**

**Amended December 4, 2004**

**Amended July 21, 2022**

The West Virginia Board of Dental Examiners has received inquiries regarding the use of lasers in the practice of dentistry. Most of these inquiries concern who may use a laser. The Board, in determining their position concerning this subject, has been in contact with dentists who are currently using lasers in their practice. The Board has also reviewed other state dental boards' positions on this subject.

The Board is aware of many varieties of dental lasers. Lasers can be used to replace or supplement traditional dental instruments, such as handpieces, scalpels, curing lights, and the explorer.

The Board regards the use of any laser which can cut tissue to be practicing dentistry, and therefore limits its use to dentists and hygienists who hold a certificate to perform non-surgical periodontal laser therapy as described in the Board's rules referenced below. This includes the so-called "low power" lasers used for periodontal treatments, such as pocket debridement, scaling, polishing, planing, and the removal of calculus deposits.

The Board will allow the use of lasers that are used as an alternative to a traditional curing light to be used by a dental hygienist or dental assistant for the sole purpose of curing resin restorations. In addition, the Board will also allow the use of the laser as a diagnostic aid by a dental hygienist or dental assistant for interpretation by the dentist.

The Board will keep abreast of changes in the use of lasers in dentistry and may choose to modify or amend this statement at any time.

#### **Referenced Board Rules 5CSR13 – Expanded Duties**

5.1.14. Use of a laser, provided the wavelength is limited to no higher than 1064 nanometers, for laser bacterial reduction, laser assisted periodontal therapy, other non-surgical periodontal therapeutic treatments, photobiomodulation (adjunctive low level laser therapy) and treatment of herpetic lesions and aphthous ulcers after successful completion of a board-approved course and under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.

5.1.14.a. A hygienist shall apply for a certificate from the Board to provide non-surgical periodontal treatment with the use of a laser using a form prescribed by the Board. The application fee shall be equal to the local anesthesia application fee as set forth in the Board's rule, Fees Established by the Board, 5CSR3.

<https://wvbody7prod.glsuite.us/GLSuiteWeb/Clients/WVBOD/StaticFiles/pdf/Laser%20Guidelines%2012025.pdf>

(URL accessed March 2025)

**West Virginia Board of Dentistry**

# Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

## Guidelines, Position Statement, & Resolutions

### Course Guidelines

#### Non-Surgical Laser Therapy for Hygienists Amended January 23, 2025

#### Non-Surgical Laser Therapy for Hygienists

Course outline, objectives, evaluation mechanism and curriculum vitae of the faculty member must be submitted to the Board and receive approval prior to the date of the scheduled course.

The program of education shall include a minimum of five and 1/2 (5.5) hours of didactic instruction and successful completion of a written examination by a score of at least 75%. Following successful completion of didactic instruction and exam, clinical competence will be assessed through (non-virtual) hands-on training

Objectives for the didactic instruction must include:

1. Review of patient's medical history to determine any contraindications
2. Review of infection control, standard precautions, and transfer of diseases
3. Periodontal tissues, dental anatomy, and nomenclature
4. Rationale for performing Non-surgical Periodontal Laser therapy
5. Beneficial and adverse effects of Non-surgical Periodontal Laser Therapy
6. Soft Tissue vs Hard Tissue Lasers
7. Laser Physics
8. Laser Safety for patients and staff
9. Patient Management
10. Proper Technique for approved use of Non-surgical Periodontal Laser Therapy including laser bacterial reduction, laser assisted periodontal therapy, photobiomodulation, and treatment of herpetic lesions/aphthous ulcers
11. Proper Coding Protocol
12. Procedures to follow in case of medical emergencies
13. Dental ethics, jurisprudence and legal understanding of procedures allowed by each dental team member.

Clinical competency will be assessed by demonstrating proficiency in approved procedures in 2.5 hours of hands-on training.

**Out of State Hygienists with Non-Surgical Laser Therapy Certifications** - If the applicant was permitted or certified in non-surgical laser therapy in a different state, other than West Virginia, further coursework is not required. In lieu of a course, verification of the applicant's non-surgical laser therapy certificate or permit in the other state is required.

The licensed dentist assigning expanded duties to a dental hygienist is solely responsible for evaluating the dental hygienist to determine that he or she is competent to handle assigned duties. No licensed dentist shall assign additional duties to a dental hygienist until he or she is assured that the dental hygienist is fully competent and completely qualified to perform the assigned expanded duty or duties for Non-surgical Periodontal Laser Therapy.



## **Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

After satisfying the Board's requirements, certification will be given, and a dental hygienist may provide Non-surgical Periodontal Laser Therapy under the direct supervision of a dentist after delegated to do so.

Amended 1.23.2025

<https://wvbody7prod.glsuite.us/GLSuiteWeb/Clients/WVBOD/StaticFiles/pdf/Laws/5CSR13.pdf>

**Laws and Rules  
Series 13  
5CSR13  
TITLE 5  
LEGISLATIVE RULE  
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY  
SERIES 13  
EXPANDED DUTIES OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS AND DENTAL ASSISTANTS  
July 1, 2022**

### **§5-13-5. Expanded duties of Dental Hygienists.**

5.1. Expanded duties of dental hygienists. In addition to and including those duties set forth in subsection 4.1 of this rule, the following duties and/or intraoral tasks may be assigned by a licensed dentist to a dental hygienist in the licensed dentist's employment:

5.1.14. Use of a laser, provided the wavelength is limited to no higher than 1064 nanometers, for laser bacterial reduction, laser assisted periodontal therapy, other non-surgical periodontal therapeutic treatments, photobiomodulation (adjunctive low level laser therapy) and treatment of herpetic lesions and aphthous ulcers after successful completion of a board-approved course and under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.

5.1.14.a. A hygienist shall apply for a certificate from the Board to provide non-surgical periodontal treatment with the use of a laser using a form prescribed by the Board. The application fee shall be equal to the local anesthesia application fee as set forth in the Board's rule, Fees Established by the Board, SCSR3.

### **§5-13-6. General Supervision of Dental Hygienists.**

6.3 A person shall not do any of the following:

6.3.4. Use dental lasers under general supervision.

### **§5-13-7. Public Health Practice of Dental Hygienists.**

7.1. A dental hygienist may engage in public health practice rendering all services provided in subsection 6.1.7.b. of this rule allowed under general supervision and as provided in this section:

7.1.11. A person shall not do any of the following:

7.1.11.d. Use dental lasers under public health practice permit.

**Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State:  
Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations**

**Wisconsin**

**State of Wisconsin**

**Department of Safety and Professional Services**

**Dentistry Examining Board**

4822 Madison Yards Way

Madison, WI 53705

(608) 266-2112

(877) 617-1565

Dentistry Examining Board

DSPS

PO Box 8366

Madison, WI 53708-8366

(608) 266-2112

E-mail: [dsps@wi.gov](mailto:dsps@wi.gov)

URL: <https://dsps.wi.gov/pages/BoardsCouncils/Dentistry>

Scope of Practice: Silent

Summary: The statutes and administrative code do not mention use of lasers.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

### Wyoming

Wyoming Board of Dental Examiners  
2001 Capitol Ave  
Room 127  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
(307) 777-7387  
Fax (307) 777-3508  
TTY: (800) 877-9965  
E-mail: [dentalboard@wyo.gov](mailto:dentalboard@wyo.gov)  
URL: <https://dental.wyo.gov>

Scope of Practice: **Administrative Rules Chapter 7, Sections 5 and 6,**  
<https://rules.wyo.gov/Search.aspx?Agency=034>

Supervision: Direct

Summary: Dental hygienists with an expanded duties permit may use soft tissue lasers to provide tissue therapy within the dental hygienist's scope of practice (herpetic lesions, aphthous ulcers, perio debridement).

The dental hygienist applicant for soft tissue laser shall complete and provide proof of training that covers a minimum of twelve (12) hours of laser physics, safety, and appropriate use, to include a hands-on component, didactic testing component and laser (hands on) assessment component, prior to applying for a permit. The course must also require the applicant to have completed a live and interactive training that addressed operations of the specific laser(s) utilized in the practice.

<https://rules.wyo.gov/Search.aspx?Agency=034>

**Wyoming Administrative Rules  
Board of Dental Examiners  
Chapter 7: Dental Auxiliaries  
May 29, 2024**

#### **Section 5. Supervision of Procedures Performed by the Dental Hygienist.**

(b) Direct Supervision. The following procedures require **direct supervision**:

- (i) Prepare, place, and remove periodontal packs;
- (ii) Remove overhanging margins
- (iii) Treat diagnosed dry sockets;
- (iv) Treat diagnosed pericoronitis;
- (v) Perform whitening procedures; and
- (vi) Perform **expanded dental duties**.

#### **Section 6. Expanded Duties Permits.**

(a) Permit. To obtain an expanded duties permit, a dental hygienist shall meet educational standards, or pass an examination approved by the Board, or both. Applicant shall submit a completed application for each duty.

(b) Training Course Approval.

## Dental Hygiene Laser Use and Requirements by State: Appendix of State Dental Boards and Regulations

(i) Training programs shall be approved in advance in writing by the Board. All expanded duty courses must contain an examination or competency assessment. Due to the varied programs, individual courses shall require individual approval after course content is reviewed by the Board.

(ii) Applicant shall provide evidence of satisfactory completion of each expanded duties course.

(iii) An applicant for soft tissue laser shall complete and provide proof of training that covers a minimum of twelve (12) hours of laser physics, safety, and appropriate use, to include a hands-on component, didactic testing component and laser (hands on) assessment component, prior to applying for a permit. The training shall meet the following requirements:

(A) The course shall be provided or recognized by any of the following organizations (or successor organization):

(I) CODA accredited institution;

(II) ADA Continuing Education Recognition Program (CERP);

(III) The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) Program Approval for Continuing Education (PACE); or

(IV) The Academy of Laser Dentistry.

(B) The course must have a hands-on component and may not be online only.

(C) The course must also require the applicant to have completed a live and interactive training that addressed operations of the specific laser(s) utilized in the practice.

(iv) An in-person evaluation for an expanded duties permit may be required by the Board to ascertain the applicant's knowledge of the expanded duties that the applicant wishes to be permitted to perform.

(c) Expanded Duties. The following may be performed by a dental hygienist with an appropriate expanded duties permit

(i) Administer local anesthetics via injection;

(ii) Administer and monitor nitrous oxide/oxygen; or

(iii) Use soft tissue lasers to provide tissue therapy within the dental hygienists scope of practice.

(A) All lasers must be used in accordance with accepted safety guidelines.

(B) When utilizing a laser, the dental hygienist shall document the following, at a minimum:

(I) Type of Laser, including wavelength;

(II) Settings used (pulse or continuous wavelength, power setting); and

(III) Procedure performed with details including size and location (Herpetic lesions, Aphthous Ulcers, Perio debridement).